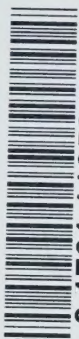


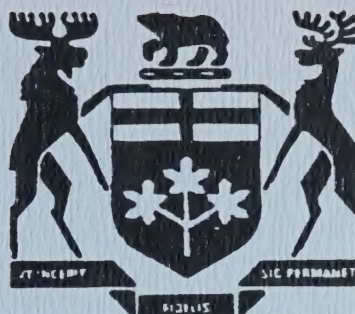
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ENVIRONNMENTALES

VOLUME: 229

DATE: Wednesday, August 29, 1990
Le mercredi 29 Août 1990

BEFORE/DEVANT:

A. KOVEN Chairman/Président

E. MARTEL Member/Commissaire



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HEARING ON THE PROPOSAL BY THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL
RESOURCES FOR A CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
TIMBER MANAGEMENT ON CROWN LANDS IN ONTARIO

IN THE MATTER of the Environmental
Assessment Act, R.S.O. 1980, c.140;

- and -

IN THE MATTER of the Class Environmental
Assessment for Timber Management on Crown
Lands in Ontario;

- and -

IN THE MATTER of an Order-in-Council
(O.C. 2449/87) authorizing the
Environmental Assessment Board to
administer a funding program, in
connection with the environmental
assessment hearing with respect to the
Timber Management Class
Environmental Assessment, and to
distribute funds to qualified
participants.

Public hearing held at the Great Hall
Pavilion, Water Tower Inn, 360 Great Northern
Road, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, on Wednesday,
August 29th, 1990, commencing at 2:00 p.m.

VOLUME 229
(official transcript)

BEFORE:

MRS. ANNE KOVEN
MR. ELIE MARTEL

Chairman
Member

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1 ---Upon commencing at 2:00 p.m.

2 MADAM CHAIR: Good afternoon, ladies and
3 gentlemen. Please be seated.

4 Welcome to the first meeting of the
5 timber management hearing in Sault Ste. Marie and we
6 thank you very much for meeting with us today. I'm
7 going to make a few brief introductory remarks. If
8 there is anyone in the audience who wishes me to repeat
9 the remarks in French, I would be happy to do so.

10 Bonne après-midi, mes dames et messieurs.
11 S'il y a quelqu'un qui est présent dans l'audience qui
12 voudrait que je répète un mot de bienvenu ou la marche
13 à suivre en français, je suis contente de le faire.

14 Aussi, il y a des traducteurs dans la
15 salle pour les présentations, si vous voulez.

16 Let me introduce the Board. My colleague
17 Elie Martel is well-known wherever we go in Ontario.
18 Mr. Martel was a strong representative of northern
19 interests for 20 years in the Ontario Legislature and
20 we are very fortunate to have his participation in this
21 hearing. My name is Anne Koven and I Chair the timber
22 management hearing.

23 We are assisted by three people today.
24 Michele Devaul, Daniel Pascoe - I don't see Daniel in
25 the room, he's out in the hall - and Janet Martel who

1 is also out in the hall, and Janet is no relation to
2 Elie. If you have any questions about the
3 Environmental Assessment Board or about our processes
4 or rules, these three people will help you out with
5 that.

6 Mr. Martel and I are two members of the
7 Environmental Assessment Board. We are appointed by
8 the Ontario government and our membership is for a
9 three-year term. Elie and I are spending all our time
10 obviously on this hearing. Our colleagues go around
11 the province doing other types of hearings such as the
12 Ontario Waste Management Corporation or the Hydro
13 hearing on the demand/supply plan that is coming up.

14 And the question we're asked most obvious
15 is: Well, what is it that you do exactly? And we
16 reply: We listen to the evidence. We've been doing
17 this for two years now, principally in Thunder Bay but
18 also in Toronto. I think this is our 229th hearing day
19 and we have accumulated over 40,000 pages of written
20 transcripts.

21 We hold meetings like this in other
22 locations across Ontario. We have visited Dryden and
23 Fort Frances. In this round of site visits we are
24 planning to go on to Geraldton and Hearst and Espanola
25 and Timmins.

1 We listen to the evidence because we have
2 to make a decision about the application before us by
3 the Ministry of Natural Resources. We are guided by
4 the Environmental Assessment Act which tells us what we
5 have to do when we make this decision. We listen to
6 all of the evidence and we consider what all of the
7 potential environmental impacts of this application
8 will mean to everyone. After hearing the evidence we
9 will make a decision about whether or not to approve
10 this application.

11 We understand very well that this is a
12 complicated process and we very much admire people who
13 come to meetings like this and stand up in crowded
14 rooms and tell us what they want us to hear. It's very
15 difficult and we simply want to assure you that we're
16 listening to what you say, we consider everything
17 that's said to us and that will be reflected in our
18 final decision.

19 And we keep the rules as simple as we can
20 and there are just a few of them. And, first of all,
21 we are going to call on people who contacted us when we
22 put notice of this hearing in the newspaper. We also
23 have the list of the names of people last night who
24 attended the information session and they will be
25 called on to speak to us this afternoon. And anyone

1 else in the room who has not been in touch with us but
2 wishes to say something is free to stand up and do so
3 in turn.

4 And the first thing we ask you to do is
5 to come forward to our table so we can swear in your
6 evidence. If you're not comfortable doing this, you
7 don't have to be sworn in, but we are asking you to do
8 so as part of this process.

9 Also, anyone in the audience is free to
10 ask questions about what anyone else is saying. Mr.
11 Martel and I may ask questions of people who give us
12 presentations today and we do so so that we understand
13 very clearly what you're saying to us.

14 We have full-time parties who appear
15 before us regularly and I'm going to introduce their
16 representatives to you so that you will know whose
17 interest they represent, and they may also question
18 people who are making presentations.

19 First of all, Catherine Blastorah
20 represents the Ministry of Natural Resources; Paul
21 Cassidy is with the Ontario Forest Industry Association
22 and the Ontario Lumber Manufacturers' Association; Dr.
23 Terry Quinney is with the Ontario Federation of Anglers
24 & Hunters; Betsy Harvie represents the Ministry of the
25 Environment; Don Huff, Don is with Forests for Tomorrow

1 and also with Mr. Huff is Mr. Michael O'Connor from the
2 Wildlands League and Mr. Tony Walker.

3 Some of these parties; namely, the
4 Ministry of Natural Resources and the Industry, have
5 already presented their cases before the hearing and
6 when these satellite hearings are completed we will
7 return to Toronto and begin hearing the case of Forests
8 for Tomorrow.

9 If you have a written presentation that
10 you want to give to us in addition to speaking to us,
11 we will accept it at this table, we'll give it an
12 exhibit number and it will become part of the
13 documentation of the hearing. Everything that's being
14 said in all our hearings is recorded by court
15 reporters, and we have three court reporters with us
16 today: Beverley Dillabough, Marilyn Callaghan and
17 Eddie Dugas. Copies of the transcripts of our hearing
18 are available in Sault Ste. Marie at the main public
19 library. We also have French translators attending our
20 hearing to day, they are: Roland Henri, Laurie Saint-
21 Martin and Angelo Macri.

22 I think we're ready to start now, and the
23 first person we will call on today is Mr. Al Jackson.
24 Hello, Mr. Jackson. Would you approach the Board,
25 please.

1 MR. JACKSON: Yes.

2 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. Good afternoon.

3 ALLAN JACKSON, Sworn

4 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Jackson.

5 MR. JACKSON: Over there?

6 MADAM CHAIR: Yes, I think the
7 arrangement is that you can sit at that table and
8 spread your things out.

9 MR. JACKSON: I have a brief.

10 MADAM CHAIR: Yes. Do you have a copy of
11 that?

12 MR. JACKSON: Yes, I do.

13 MADAM CHAIR: All right. Thank you, Mr.
14 Jackson.

15 MR. JACKSON: (handed)

16 MADAM CHAIR: Mr. Jackson's written
17 presentation will be given Exhibit No. 1288, and it is
18 addressed to the Ontario Environmental Assessment Board
19 Hearing on Timber Management on Crown Lands by Allan A.
20 Jackson, who is the Chief Administrative Officer of the
21 City of Sault Ste. Marie and it is three pages.

22 ---EXHIBIT NO. 1288: Three-page written presentation
23 of Allan Jackson, Chief
24 Administrative Officer of City
of Sault Ste. Marie.

25 MADAM CHAIR: Please proceed, Mr.

1 Jackson.

2 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Madam Chairman,
3 Mr. Martel.

4 I'm very pleased to be here and to
5 welcome you to the City of Sault Ste. Marie which is
6 the forestry capital of Canada for 1990. I'm not here
7 pretending to be an expert in timber management or in
8 forestry, although the City has over the past few years
9 developed some good knowledge and expertise in this
10 area; rather I'm here to emphasize the importance that
11 forestry is to our community and area and to support
12 rational and timely decisions on the use of this
13 significant resource.

14 I welcome the Board to Sault Ste. Marie
15 on behalf of the Corporation and we thank the Board for
16 coming here to give our citizens, corporations,
17 organizations and individuals all an opportunity to
18 speak on this very important issue.

19 This City has in the past benefitted
20 considerably from the forestry industry and will
21 continue to benefit from this very important component
22 of our resource-based economy and we do have a
23 resource-based economy.

24 For example, in 1986 logging and forestry
25 accounted for some 385 jobs within our community. The

1 actual number of direct forestry jobs increased by some
2 65 jobs between 1981 and 1986. There are also
3 manufacturing jobs, some 781 jobs at St. Mary's Paper
4 and 400 jobs at Lajambe Forest Products. We further
5 estimate that there are 600 government-related jobs in
6 forest management and research in Sault Ste. Marie.
7 These include the Ontario Aviation and Fire Management,
8 the Forest Resources Group, the District Office, the
9 Federal Forest Pest Management Group and the Forestry
10 Canada Research Centre.

11 The forest resource base of Sault Ste.
12 Marie also supports a substantial and significant
13 tourism industry providing significant hunting,
14 fishing, recreation and nature experience
15 opportunities. Clearly sustained development of our
16 forest resource base is important to the social and
17 economic development of Sault Ste. Marie. We support
18 an environmental assessment process that provides
19 for integrated resource management, balanced differing
20 and often conflicting users.

21 Since 1986 the City has been working in
22 partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Natural
23 Resources to develop a forestry job corps program.
24 This cooperative program will provide training and
25 employment opportunities for City welfare and UIC

1 recipients and provide for enhanced forest management
2 investments. This program would take 400 people off
3 the welfare and unemployment rolls and result in 4,400
4 long-term jobs.

5 We've had a very positive response from
6 the Ontario government to this program. We are
7 currently working with an Ontario ministerial committee
8 to get the project moving. We hope that funds can be
9 dedicated soon so that a pilot project can begin in
10 Sault Ste. Marie and eventually be applied across
11 northern Ontario.

12 The cyclical nature of our northern
13 economy often results in unemployment crisis situation
14 requiring immediate and long-term action. The
15 provincial and federal governments have developed a
16 number of programs designed to address these employment
17 situations and it is important that the environmental
18 assessment process provide the flexibility required to
19 implement these programs in a timely manner; therefore,
20 we request that the Board maintain the existing
21 environmental assessment exemption for special
22 employment projects.

23 We are also supportive of the approval of
24 the Class Environmental Assessment for timber
25 management in northern Ontario. We request the

1 decisions concerning the long-term management of our
2 forest resource rests with a team of qualified
3 professionals respectful of unique local conditions and
4 free from undue political and special interest group
5 pressure.

6 Thank you very much for this opportunity
7 to speak to you as one of the major stakeholders in one
8 of our most precious resources.

9 Thank you very much, Madam Chairman.

10 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Jackson.

11 MR. MARTEL: I wonder if I could ask you
12 to give us a little more detail, Mr. Jackson, on the
13 program that you're proposing, you request that the
14 Board maintain the existing environmental assessment
15 exemption for special employment projects; how that
16 ties in?

17 MR. JACKSON: Well, the program -- the
18 forestry job corps program that we have put together is
19 a comprehensive program that could apply across
20 northern Ontario oriented towards forestry that would
21 create a variety of different types of jobs in
22 forestry; could be tree planting, could relate to
23 mapping or, you know, improvement of existing stands.

24 The reference to the environmental
25 assessment is that quite often it's necessary to put

1 job creation projects in place and you don't have long
2 periods of time to plan for them necessarily, and that
3 we feel that there is some reason to short cut - not
4 that you're overlooking the environment, it isn't a
5 case of that, those things will all be looked into -
6 but there is the exemption that you don't get into a
7 long drawn-out process because if you do then those
8 programs just won't go ahead.

9 MR. MARTEL: All right, thank you.

10 MADAM CHAIR: Mr. Jackson, your proposal
11 for a forestry job corps, is that a new idea in Ontario
12 or has it been suggested or tried out in other
13 communities?

14 MR. JACKSON: To our knowledge it has not
15 been in the form that we have proposed it. What has
16 happened on that program is that it has been reviewed
17 by a provincial and ministerial committee and they have
18 come forth with certain recommendations on how the
19 program can be, you know, slightly changed or
20 reoriented and that's now being considered and we
21 expect that will go forward.

22 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you.

23 Are there any questions from the audience
24 for Mr. Jackson?

25 (no response)

1 Thank you very much.

2 MR. JACKSON: Okay. Thank you very much.

3 MADAM CHAIR: We will now call on Mr.

4 Joseph Sniezek. Hello, Mr. Sniezek.

5 JOSEPH SNIEZEK, Sworn

6 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Sniezek.

7 Mr. Sniezek has given us a two-page
8 written presentation and that will be given Exhibit No.
9 1289.

10 ---EXHIBIT NO. 1289: Two-page written presentation of
11 Joseph Sniezek.

12 MR. SNIEZEK: Madam Chairman, Member of
13 the Board, thank you for the opportunity to speak to
14 you today.

15 I have read some of the testimony that
16 you have heard, specifically in Fort Frances and
17 Dryden, and a great deal of what I'm saying has been
18 said already; however, I hope that my evidence which is
19 primarily anecdotal in nature will add to the Board's
20 weight of presentations, because if the people in the
21 hearing process hear this evidence enough they might
22 just start to understand the nature of northern society
23 and the values of people who have lived here and
24 understand the economy and the way people understand
25 the environment in which they live.

1 I would like to give you some background
2 about myself. I'm a professional planner, I have a
3 degree in urban regional planning from the University
4 of Waterloo and I was born in Kenora 42 years ago. I
5 lived in a bush camp with 250 families until I was
6 eight. I moved to town and remained there until I was
7 13.

8 I began working with the Department of
9 Lands & Forests in 1966 in Elliott Lake and the
10 following summer I worked on a fire crew out of
11 Armstrong. The next year I worked as a surveyor on the
12 Ontario Hydro preliminary investigation of the Little
13 Jackfish River north of Lake Nipigon and I have been
14 involved in planning in Sault Ste. Marie and northern
15 Ontario since 1971. I believe my work and life
16 experience entitle me to say a few things to you about
17 the process that you're going through.

18 I believe that there has been a great
19 deal of misinformation about forests and forest
20 management practices. The forests are not parks and
21 they do not remain in a steady state; forests are
22 dynamic. When I worked in Elliott Lake one summer we
23 made a fire three times a day, five days a week for two
24 months out of the white pine stump. All the trees in
25 the forest, that particular forest were poplar and

1 birch with the odd spruce thrown in. It was a serial
2 ecosystem in the raw. A white pine forest will
3 automatically follow the poplar/birch association and
4 in 300 years in all probability a magnificent white
5 pine forest will reappear.

6 Forests do regenerate in a natural form
7 and there is a lot of misinformation flying around that
8 the only way forests grow is if man plants them and
9 that is a big lie. I can show you areas that were
10 clearcut when I was a boy and there is -- the trees are
11 as thick as the hair on a dog's back.

12 The roads that were built to take those
13 trees to market are completely overgrown, the only
14 evidence that man was there are the cinder piles at the
15 bottom of the hills and birch trees are growing out of
16 them.

17 Man's harvesting activities are only a
18 brief interlude in the use of the forests. The forests
19 are harvested, access to them is improved, and the
20 forests are used for recreational uses. In northern
21 Ontario recreational uses differ slightly from those in
22 the south. We pick mushrooms there and people get lost
23 picking mushrooms regularly; you pick blueberries and
24 raspberries and strawberries and high bush cranberries
25 and go fishing and hunting and recreating in terms of

1 hunt camps and cottages.

2 And I believe that access roads to
3 forests should be maintained to improve forest
4 management such as thinning activities and recreational
5 access to forests. I think there's a tendency in large
6 part to leave these roads unmaintained and allow them
7 to deteriorate and in 70 years you're going to have to
8 rebuild all those roads.

9 The process that the people of the
10 province think that northern Ontario is one big park
11 upsets me. The forests that existed in this province,
12 the grandest forests that existed in this province were
13 not in northern Ontario at all, they were in the south.
14 There are remnants of these great carolinian forests
15 existing today and if you want to protect forests those
16 are the forests that should be protected.

17 The other problem with the process, is
18 the length of time and, Madam Chairman, you have
19 outlined how long it has taken for this process to
20 reach some kind of decision and you haven't made a
21 decision yet, still travelling through the province.

22 You have a bunch of lawyers from southern
23 Ontario who couldn't tell a jack pine from a tamarack
24 trying to set conditions for timber management in this
25 part of the province, and I think that's pretty

1 ridiculous. I think centralized planning is pretty
2 inflexible. In the old days we used to have a district
3 forester who stayed in the area for some time usually
4 and had worked his way up through the system, he
5 understood the types of forests and the demands placed
6 on them.

7 The kind of local intuitive base learning
8 is impossible to replace with a planning process,
9 especially the planning process outlined before you
10 today. The EA process requires that all alternatives
11 be investigated even if the alternative is ridiculous
12 and is a waste of time and the function of the planning
13 lacks practical day-to-day experience.

14 My plea to you today is to decentralize
15 the process, give people input but make it flexible
16 enough to adapt to changing conditions such as a fire
17 or insect infestation. Put foresters in the forest not
18 behind a desk and allow them to do their jobs and
19 Ontario's forests will be better managed.

20 I also believe that resources have to be
21 given to the Ministry to let them do their jobs.
22 Millions of dollars are collected in taxes and stumpage
23 fees and are taken from the forest not put back into
24 them. I don't believe that we can use European models
25 to manage our forests. We can take all the forests of

1 Sweden and put them in the District of Algoma. We have
2 to develop our own model based on flexibility, multiple
3 use of our forests for everyone's benefit.

4 Thank you very much.

5 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr.
6 Sniezek.

7 Does anyone in the audience have a
8 question for Mr. Sniezek?

9 (no response)

10 Thank you very much.

11 Mr. John Schnablegger?

12 MR. SCHNABLEGGER: (handed)

13 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, Mr.
14 Schnablegger.

15 JOHN SCHNABLEGGER, Sworn

16 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, Mr.
17 Schnablegger. Mr. Schnablegger's written presentation
18 will be given Exhibit No. 1290.

19 This is a four-page written presentation
20 by the Canadian Paperworkers Union, Region 3 to the
21 Environmental Assessment Board.

22 ---EXHIBIT NO. 1290: Four-page written presentation of
23 Canadian Paperworkers Union,
24 Region 3, presented by John
Schnablegger.

25 MR. SCHNABLEGGER: Thank you, Madam

1 Chairperson.

2 Just as a way of introduction, I am the
3 President of Local 133 of the Canadian Paperworkers
4 Union at St. Mary's Paper. The subject of my brief is
5 forest management agreements and sustainability.

6 The Canadian Paperworkers Union welcomes
7 the opportunity to make our views known to the
8 Environmental Assessment Board here in Sault Ste.
9 Marie. As workers in the pulp and paper industry we
10 have a long-term interest in the forests, health of our
11 forests and forest environment. We not only depend on
12 the forests for our jobs we are also well aware of its
13 importance for recreation, tourism and the maintenance
14 of the ecological balance here in northern Ontario and
15 in the world at large.

16 We would like to focus our attention on
17 two closely linked issues; the system of forest
18 management agreements, the cornerstone of forest policy
19 in Ontario over the past 10 years, and the
20 sustainability of the forest operations that are both
21 the object of the FMAs and the subject of these
22 hearings.

23 Earlier this year our Union testified
24 before the House of Commons Committee on Forestry. We
25 were quite clear about how we believe the forest should

1 be viewed. The forest is a community of plants and
2 animals, the forest ecosystem is a broad concept that
3 includes the minerals in the soil, the water, the
4 prevailing climate. In this area of increased
5 environmental awareness we must all recognize that
6 forestry now involves more than timber management and
7 wood fiber; there are other values involved, the most
8 important of which is the sustainability of the forest
9 ecosystem over time. That means more than sustained
10 yield of timber.

11 You have no doubt heard a lot over the
12 past two years about silviculture. Forest planners
13 employed in both the proponent, the Ministry of Natural
14 Resources, and the Industry usually uses words borrowed
15 from agriculture to describe their activities;
16 logging has become harvesting and trees are suddenly
17 crops. We are led to believe after many years of
18 neglect of Ontario's public forests things have finally
19 turned around.

20 The first thing to say about this is that
21 the changes in Ontario's forest policy that followed
22 the release of Mr. Ken Armson's study The Forest
23 Management in Ontario made sense in one respect. With
24 the introduction of the forest management agreements
25 logging and silviculture were at long last united under

1 one administrative roof. At one time in the not too
2 distant past the two steps were actually separated with
3 company's licensed to cut wood, doing just that, and
4 leaving the regeneration to a separate body, the
5 Ministry of Natural Resources.

6 This is important because the two are
7 inseparable and the way a particular forest site is
8 logged has much to say in determining the regeneration
9 strategy that follows. In general terms large area
10 clearcuts demand artificial regeneration treatments
11 such as planting or seeding; however, we do not believe
12 that the decision to unite logging and silviculture
13 should have necessarily led to allowing the
14 multi-national forest companies that dominate the pulp
15 and paper industry to carry out forestry operations in
16 Ontario.

17 My reason here is simple enough. These
18 companies are employers in the business of
19 manufacturing and selling paper products. They do not
20 make money by cutting down trees or preserving the
21 forest environment, for them what is a cost of
22 production and they always try to minimize costs.
23 These are simple facts of business life.

24 Industry has acknowledged as much in
25 Panel 6 of the OFIA and OLMA statement of evidence on

1 harvesting. As a general rule, harvesting activities
2 are carried out in response to a mill's demand for wood
3 supply. The preamble to each forest management
4 agreement contains a clause that explicitly outlines
5 its goals:

6 "To provide within the context of
7 a sustained yield approach a continuous
8 supply of wood for a mill or mills to
9 meet market requirements."

10 The FMAs, therefore, have two goals which
11 are opposed to one other; sustained yield and meeting
12 market requirements.

13 The Royal Commission on the Northern
14 Environment concluded that this is an internal
15 contradiction. We would agree, entrusting the forest
16 environment to the care of companies that see it as a
17 cost of production will inevitably lead to pressure
18 that the resource simply cannot sustain. So sustained
19 yield takes a back seat to market requirements.

20 I understand that you have heard much
21 evidence from the Ministry of Natural Resources and
22 from the forest industry that presents the assuring
23 picture of the way the forests are being managed, but
24 as paperworkers whose jobs and communities depend on
25 the future of forests, we cannot ignore the past.

1 Under an FMA system that puts forestry
2 operations in the hands of manufacturing companies, the
3 way the forest is treated and the extent of the cut are
4 determined by mill capacity and the external markets
5 for pulp, paper and lumber. There is nothing in this
6 system that makes reference to biological or physical
7 capacity of the natural forest to sustain the logging
8 pressure to which it is being subjugated.

9 This pressure is increasing in lock step
10 as mill capacity expands. Between 1976 and '86, the
11 total amount of industrial roundwood extracted from
12 Ontario's forests and shipped to its mills rose from
13 16,956,000 cubic metres to 27,859,000 cubic metres; an
14 increase of 64 per cent. During this time, Ontario's
15 basic paper and paperboard production grew by 62 per
16 cent. In the same period, the total employment
17 generated from Ontario's forest products industry,
18 including employment in southern parts of the province,
19 increased by only 3.5 per cent.

20 This increase in the volume of wood cut
21 obviously meant that more forest land was logged over.
22 In the ten-year period, 1976-77 to 1985-86, the area
23 cut jumped by 39 per cent. Pressure on the resource is
24 likely to increase as the forest industry strives to
25 expand its capacity.

1 Canadian Pacific Forest Products is
2 expanding in Thunder Bay and Dryden. The Shinho group
3 has plans for a new mill at Thunder Bay, Boise Cascade
4 is expanding at both Kenora and Espanola and the most
5 recent in-depth study --

6 MADAM CHAIR: Excuse me, can you slow
7 down your presentation a bit.

8 MR. SCHNABLEGGER: Certainly. The most
9 recent in-depth study of the prospects for the Canadian
10 forest industry predicts a net increase of 280,000
11 tonnes of newsprint capacity in Ontario by 1995 and a
12 further increase of 1.35-million tonnes between 1995
13 and 2010.

14 While the use of recycled fiber may help
15 to alleviate pressure on the resource, it is unlikely
16 to be able to reverse the trend towards extracting more
17 wood from a shrinking land base.

18 We have developed a system in which
19 forest managers in both the public and private sectors
20 are under constant pressure to produce more wood from a
21 limited land base. Indeed, the amount of productive
22 forest land has decreased over the years as neglect of
23 forest management has led to backlogs of NSR lands. At
24 the same time, tourist operators, environmentalists and
25 native people are lobbying for more wilderness

1 preservation. These factors, coupled with uncertainty
2 about the reliability of Ontario forest inventory, FRI
3 data, mean that we may not be practising sustained
4 yield in any meaningful sense.

5 The issue of tenure lies at the heart of
6 this problem. As long as the industrial organizations
7 that control the large mills also control the forests,
8 decisions over how to log and how much to log will
9 continue to be based on economic rather than ecological
10 factors.

11 We believe that the Board should take
12 these issues into account when analysing the evidence
13 that is put before it. Consider the issues such as
14 clearcut size, wildlife habitat, effects of mechanized
15 logging on the environment and all the other
16 controversial questions that arise in debates over
17 forestry.

18 None of them can be separated from the
19 fact that the corporations currently running logging
20 and silviculture operations are primarily concerned
21 with delivering wood fiber to their mill yards as
22 cheaply as possible. The biological nature of the
23 forest environment is not part of the corporate
24 equation.

25 We realize that the public which pays the

1 cost of access roads and reforestation under the FMA
2 system has some nominal control over the private
3 licences through the Ministry of Natural Resources, but
4 we have to ask ourselves whether the companies that
5 employ so many of us in their mills can ever be subject
6 to the strict regulation necessary for the preservation
7 of a healthy forest environment.

8 It is not just the forest environment
9 that is fragile, jobs are at stake in fragile northern
10 communities. We are well aware that when companies
11 complain that too much regulation may force them to cut
12 back their operations, politicians and planners and the
13 Ministry of Natural Resources pay close attention.

14 We believe that the only way out of this
15 situation is to open up the question of tenure. Should
16 we be allowing private multi-national corporations with
17 head offices outside our region to control the public
18 forest, do their long-term priorities - and remember
19 that forestry is a hundred year project - match those
20 of northern workers and their communities. Should we
21 be considering other forms of tenure that would put
22 more control of the forest into hands of people who
23 have more to gain through treating it as a living
24 organism rather than a fiber warehouse.

25 Thank you, Madam Chairman.

1 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, Mr.
2 Schnablegger.

3 Mr. Schnablegger, is it the view of the
4 Canadian Paperworkers Union that this hearing -- are
5 you in opposition to the FMA system the way it is set
6 up now?

7 MR. SCHNABLEGGER: Yes, we are, Madam
8 Chairman.

9 MADAM CHAIR: And are there proposals
10 that your union has to make with respect to changes you
11 would like to see?

12 MR. SCHNABLEGGER: Yes, Madam
13 Chairperson, we are going to make further proposals at
14 later dates.

15 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you.

16 MR. MARTEL: I guess I'm trying to get a
17 handle on what you're really proposing here. It is an
18 argument that I've heard many times, I guess used
19 occasionally myself, so I understand the difficulty you
20 are having and the difficulty I'm having.

21 What in essence you are saying is that
22 you want to take away control or sell off or split. I
23 think you are suggesting you split the forest work,
24 ownership, control, licence, whatever you want to call
25 it, away from those who in fact are producing the paper

1 or the paper products that we use; am I right?

2 MR. SCHNABLEGGER: That is correct, Mr.
3 Martel.

4 MR. MARTEL: And that to you would result
5 in, I presume, better decisions being made with respect
6 to regeneration and so on?

7 MR. SCHNABLEGGER: We believe that to be
8 the case. We believe that the Industry looks at the
9 forest as a crop to be harvested.

10 MR. MARTEL: And nothing else? Are you
11 saying they are looking at it totally divorced from
12 anything else or mixed, or what is your reaction to
13 what's going on in the forest today?

14 MR. SCHNABLEGGER: Well, we believe that
15 they look at it as a crop and that the essence of their
16 policy is to harvest that crop as cheaply as possible
17 because it's a cost to their production and in that
18 sense they will use the least expensive means for
19 reforestation as well because it becomes a cost to them
20 as well.

21 MR. MARTEL: Thank you.

22 MADAM CHAIR: Mr. Schnablegger, I have
23 one comment with respect to a statement you make on
24 page 3 and you are stating that the amount of
25 productive forest land has decreased over the years,

1 that neglect of forest management has led to backlogs
2 of NSR land.

3 I would simply point you to the evidence
4 that we have heard, and I do this in public hearings
5 when I know there is no possibility you can go through
6 all the material we have, but you might be interested
7 to see some of the testimony of the Industry whose case
8 we have just completed and there is testimony to the
9 effect that some companies have, in effect, eliminated
10 their backlogs of NSR land.

11 I'm not saying that's contradicting what
12 you're stating here, but we do have testimony in for
13 certain companies with respect to that issue.

14 MR. SCHNABLEGGER: Okay.

15 MADAM CHAIR: Are there any questions
16 from the audience for Mr. Schnablegger?

17 (no response)

18 Thank you very much.

19 MR. SCHNABLEGGER: Thank you, Madam
20 Chairperson.

21 MADAM CHAIR: Mr. Edward Nelson.

22 EDWARD NELSON, Sworn

23 MADAM CHAIR: Good afternoon, Mr. Nelson.

24 MR. NELSON: Good afternoon.

25 MADAM CHAIR: We've received two copies

1 of your written presentation and we will give it
2 Exhibit No. 1291.

3 This is a two-page presentation to the
4 Board from the Lake Weshago Cottage Owners Association
5 and Mr. Nelson is identified on the correspondence as
6 being the vice-president of this association.

7 ---EXHIBIT NO. 1291: Two-page written presentation
8 submitted by Edward Nelson on
9 behalf of the Lake Weshago
Cottage Owners Association.

MADAM CHAIR: Mr. Nelson.

10 MR. NELSON: Yes. Whereas cottage
11 residents in Northern Ontario pay a substantial amount
12 in property investment and taxes, and receives little
13 or no service or benefits, they also make a great
14 contribution to the local and provincial economy and
15 are very seriously interested in preserving the
16 environment.

17 In the past, lumber companies with the
18 approval of MNR have cut to the immediate shoreline of
19 cottage lakes, cottage subdivision boundaries and
20 destroys cottage access roads with heavy trucks.

21 The following is a list of conditions we
22 feel should be imposed on timber companies to protect
23 our interests. One, a 400-metre no-cut reserve be
24 established around all cottage lot subdivisions to be
25 managed by the MNR and the cottagers; two, a 100 to

1 300-metre no-cut shoreline reservation be established
2 an all cottageing lakes to be managed by MNR and the
3 local cottagers; that lumber companies be held
4 responsible for any damage occurred because access
5 roads by their haul trucks and share in the cost of
6 maintenance when they are using these roads.

7 The above conditions should be included
8 on each cutting approval and work permit.

9 No. 4, that the Ministry of the
10 Environment be part of the auditing process to ensure
11 that the conditions of the agreement are being
12 followed.

13 Now, the following is a list of reasons
14 for my proposed conditions. No. 1, the reason for the
15 buffer zone around cottage subdivisions is to protect
16 our lots from large clearcuts reforested with pure jack
17 pine, e.g., fire hazard, aerial spraying, wind damage.
18 A buffer zone would allow us to develop nature trails
19 in a natural forest; two, to protect the shoreline of
20 our lakes from erosion, aerial spraying, unwanted
21 access and habitat for wildlife, et cetera.

22 No. 3, damage to cottage access roads,
23 e.g., Harwood Lake and South Ivanhoe roads were
24 severely damaged in the past five years; four, the MNR
25 timber staff have to work very close with the lumber

1 companies and many staff have started with MNR and
2 later switched employment to a lumber company or vice
3 versa.

4 There have been a number of occurrences
5 where the MNR only acted on infractions when brought to
6 light by the concerned public or tourist operator.

7 It is my opinion that asking the MNR to
8 police the lumber companies is like asking the fox to
9 guard the chicken coop.

10 This is why I consider it of paramount
11 importance that the Ministry of the Environment should
12 be involved in the auditing of the agreement. That's
13 the only hope left considering the past track record of
14 the MNR and the present state of Ontario forests.

15 Thank you.

16 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Nelson.

17 Is it the position of your association
18 that there are no situations in which it is possible to
19 do modified cutting in a reserve either around cottage
20 areas, as you are proposing, or on shorelines?

21 MR. NELSON: Well, it seems to be that
22 the proposed cutting arrangements prior to cutting
23 which have been afforded to our association and
24 approved, but when actual cutting takes place it seems
25 that they -- they are willing to violate this agreement

1 and there doesn't seem to be any way of policing them
2 or they just tell you: Well, we've decided that in our
3 opinion that that doesn't involve any danger to the
4 environment or some such excuse as this.

5 MADAM CHAIR: Could you explain something
6 to me, please. When you refer to cottage access roads,
7 were those roads built by the cottagers? Are those
8 township roads or are they forest roads?

9 MR. NELSON: No, I believe that many of
10 them are originally forest roads, but subdivisions have
11 been established on lakes adjacent to them and,
12 therefore, they become access roads to the
13 subdivisions.

14 MADAM CHAIR: Has it been the experience
15 of any members of your association, have they attended
16 open houses for timber management or been involved in
17 committees with the Ministry of Natural Resources?

18 MR. NELSON: Yes, our president has.

19 MADAM CHAIR: And do they have opinions
20 about that experience?

21 MR. NELSON: Oh, definitely.

22 MADAM CHAIR: Do you feel free to share
23 them with the Board or...

24 MR. NELSON: No, I would rather leave to
25 Mr. Dingee.

1 MADAM CHAIR: All right. Thank you, Mr.
2 Nelson.

3 MR. MARTEL: Your suggestion in Item 4,
4 would you consider it appropriate that there be a
5 policy in place where someone from MNR, for example,
6 who work in a specific area could not in fact move to a
7 company and work in the same area where he was as a
8 representative of MNR be a way of reducing the
9 suspicions?

10 I'm not suggesting you can interfere
11 whether a person goes to work for another employer, but
12 I think some years ago the Ministry of Natural
13 Resources through the Ministry -- when they had the
14 Ministry of Mines involved with them, I think that when
15 people transferred from the Ministry to a company or
16 vice versa there was a tendency to relocate the
17 official to another part of the province for a
18 temporary period of time so as to alleviate the
19 concerns that were being expressed that you express in
20 your article that there might be some form of, I think
21 you are suggesting, collusion going on.

22 Would that make sense to see if that
23 could be looked upon for, let's say, two years or
24 something like that?

25 MR. NELSON: Well, if I had a choice I

1 would choose someone from the environment because, as I
2 say, they know more communities, they work very closely
3 together.

4 You suggested perhaps they could be or
5 should be moved to another location periodically, I
6 think that's what you're suggesting, I don't think
7 that's very fair on the employee, the MNR really.

8 And the environmental people have a
9 different assessment of the situation than what the MNR
10 do or the timber company does and first and foremost it
11 seems that the timber companies -- the overall
12 objective for them is to obtain all possible timber
13 they can as close as they can. If this means they can
14 have opinions changed on certain lakes where they can
15 cut up close to it, they are certainly going to do it.
16 Their first and foremost interest is for timber not
17 environment.

18 MADAM CHAIR: Is there anyone else in the
19 audience who wishes to question Mr. Nelson?

20 Ms. Blastorah?

21 MS. BLASTORAH: Madam Chair, I just had
22 one question and it was really more a matter of
23 clarification than anything.

24 Mr. Nelson, you indicated that you had a
25 concern or one of yours concerns was, if I understood

1 you correctly, that companies may have been approved by
2 the Ministry to carry out certain operations and then
3 they don't necessarily do what's being approved. Am I
4 correct that that's what --

5 MR. NELSON: That's correct.

6 MS. BLASTORAH: I was just wondering by
7 way of clarification, were you speaking of a particular
8 instance that you've experienced or were you just
9 speaking generally?

10 MR. NELSON: No, these are some
11 particular instances on our own area.

12 MS. BLASTORAH: Could you just give me
13 the name of the area? I don't want to take the time of
14 the Board to go into a lot of detail, but perhaps if
15 you could indicate where you are speaking of that will
16 be helpful for us.

17 MR. NELSON: Well, this is the Chapleau
18 area.

19 MS. BLASTORAH: Well, perhaps if you
20 could be just a little more specific.

21 MR. NELSON: Well, to be more specific,
22 Lake Weshago is where our subdivision is.

23 MS. BLASTORAH: What was the nature of
24 the operations that was approved and how do you feel
25 that they were carried out in a way different than what

1 was approved?

2 MR. NELSON: Well, the timber management
3 submitted plans to us showing where the cutting was
4 going to be, what the boundaries were, but subsequently
5 in the lake south of Weshago which is Walatka, they cut
6 right up to the shore on a big lagoon just south of it
7 and we said: Well, this isn't what was shown, how come
8 you cut up to the lagoon and they said: Well, these --
9 apparently they had the prerogative of reassessing it
10 and there wasn't going to be, in their opinion, any
11 environmental damage, they were at liberty to change
12 it.

13 MS. BLASTORAH: Are you saying that there
14 was an amendment? Do you know whether there was an
15 amendment to the plan that changed that operation? Is
16 that what was indicated to you?

17 MR. NELSON: That's what I believe.

18 MS. BLASTORAH: Thank you very much.

19 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Nelson.

20 Mayor Brent Rankin of Thessalon.

21 MADAM CHAIR: Hello, Mayor Rankin.

22 BRENT RANKIN, Sworn

23 MAYOR RANKIN: Thank you, Madam Chairman.
24 My name is Brent Rankin. That won't mean anything to
25 you because I'm not that important.

1 I live in a small town called Thessalon
2 which is just 50 miles east of here. Thessalon will be
3 celebrating its Centennial in 1992. That will mark 100
4 years of history founded on timber in the 1800s by
5 someone who was important, a man named Nathaniel
6 Diamond. Mr. Diamond built Thessalon and the largest
7 house in Thessalon was his house; a house which stands
8 there today.

9 Like Thessalon, my history is a lumber
10 history. My grandfather moved to Thessalon in 1948
11 with J.B. Morgan who brought his company there from
12 Bracebridge. That company was Midway Lumber Mills and
13 it stands here today as well, still operating and still
14 the major employer.

15 I'm not in the lumbering business, but
16 like every one of the other 14,032 residents of
17 Thessalon the forest affects me too. Lumbering is our
18 heritage and our culture. The social fabric of
19 Thessalon is woven with wood fibers. Not a generation
20 is without some connection to the primary timber
21 resource of our area.

22 As I speak to you, my sister is choosing
23 a name for her new baby, the first for her and her
24 husband, both 22 years of age with a house mortgage and
25 a car payment and a skidder payment too. Kevin is a

1 logger and his livelihood and that of his new family
2 depends on the stability of the logging supply in the
3 Thessalon North Shore area.

4 It is the uncertainty about that supply
5 that pervades our community. Will timber management
6 schemes displace the jobs of our friends and
7 neighbours? It could quite possibly. Are there any
8 jobs to relace them? I think not.

9 I'm a director on the Algoma Kenawabi
10 Travel Association and we have witnessed a steady
11 decline in the tourist traffic in our region. This is
12 part of a provincial trend that makes the potential of
13 tourism related jobs an unlikely alternative to lost
14 lumbering employment.

15 As well, I sit on the board of the
16 Federal Community Future Committee for our area and it
17 is clear that the massive layoffs in Elliott Lake will
18 have far reaching and devastating effects on the local
19 economy. In fact, recently all of the lumber mills in
20 our area have already had applications for employment
21 from laid off miners and striking steelworkers from
22 Sault Ste. Marie.

23 The lumber industry could not possibly
24 consider expansion or even a third shift in the
25 uncertain times ahead. Instead of being a potential

1 source of employment, its current employment base is
2 threatened.

3 In Thessalon, a slump in the lumber
4 industry resulting from guidelines effecting extraction
5 would devastate our community. In many households, two
6 or more family members work at one or the other of the
7 three mills. A decline in the supply will result in
8 layoffs at all three mills meaning both wage earners
9 could potentially be out of work.

10 A constant reminder of what might be is
11 just 20 miles across the water from Thessalon
12 shoreline; Coven Island, now a ghost town that once
13 depended on the lumber industry. Many of the Coven
14 Island residents now live in Thessalon and I'm sure
15 they fear what could happen again.

16 \$12-million in wages and timber purchased
17 from local suppliers is pumped directly into the local
18 economy each year by the mills. To a larger community
19 this may seem small, but it is twice the assessment of
20 the entire municipality.

21 Those of us who live in Thessalon choose
22 to live here for many reasons. I was born there but
23 educated away and decided to return to make my home,
24 likewise my wife grew up in another former lumber town,
25 Blind River, and returned her after her schooling in

1 Toronto. We live here because we like the forests and
2 the pristine setting. We do not want to see the
3 uncontrolled and devastating effects of unchecked
4 logging practices. We don't believe that the loggers
5 and the mill owners do either.

6 I'm not a biologist, an entomologist, a
7 forester or a lumberman. I do believe that there are
8 comprises that can be effected to make doing business
9 profitable and, at the same time, put terms and
10 conditions in place that will accommodate the concerns
11 of naturalists and conservationists.

12 A person's way of life is sacred to him.
13 It is difficult to accept that a lifestyle built around
14 respect for the forest can be threatened by those
15 proclaiming to want to preserve the same forest.
16 Sometimes it appears that natural habitat and
17 conservation can only apply to animals and plants. We
18 would like to conserve our natural habitat too and it
19 includes a special relationship with the animals and
20 the trees around which we live and work.

21 I see loggers, cutters, truckers and mill
22 workers every say. I see fear and apprehension when
23 talking about changes that may threaten their jobs,
24 their families and their lifestyle. Friends of mine
25 have been laid off from Elliott Lake and have been

1 forced to move away. They leave friends and family and
2 a community in which they have lived for many years,
3 sometimes a lifetime.

4 In the Elliott Lake situation, many
5 outside factors influence the mine layoffs unrelated to
6 decision-making that could be tailored to protect all
7 parties involved.

8 In the process we are discussing here it
9 isn't too late to compromise. If all is well, in 1992
10 the Centennial will go on; however, the next hundred
11 years may be a little tougher for Thessalon.

12 I'd like to add that as the Mayor of
13 Thessalon I was elected to Council when I was 21 and on
14 Monday I will be 30. I work in town, my business is in
15 Thessalon, and I have built a home there, I plan to
16 raise my family there. I will do whatever I can to
17 protect Thessalon and it's lifeblood, the logging
18 industry.

19 As I have explained, be assured that we
20 all care deeply for the preservation of the forests
21 which have been our bread and butter but we also need
22 access to them.

23 Thank you.

24 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, Mayor Rankin.

25 Are there any questions from the audience

1 for Mayor Rankin?

2 (no response)

3 Thank you very much. Mayor Rankin has
4 submitted his written comments comprising six pages and
5 we will give this Exhibit No. 1292.

6 ---EXHIBIT NO. 1292: Six-page written presentation of
7 Mayor Brent Rankin of Thessalon.

8 MADAM CHAIR: Hello, Professor Kerr,
9 would you like to approach the Board?

10 Good afternoon.

11 YVONNE KERR, Sworn

12 MS. KERR: I have a written
13 representation but other members of our association are
14 sending written ones.

15 MADAM CHAIR: That's fine. Everything
16 you say will be recorded on the transcript.

17 MS. KERR: Madam Chairman, I'm making a
18 presentation to the Environmental Assessment Board by
19 the Bridgeland Lake Cottagers' Association and I who
20 represent them, and Yvonne Kerr. The Bridgeland Lake
21 Cottagers' Association would like to state briefly five
22 points in its plea for protection of Bridgeland Lake.

23 We wish first to emphasize the fact that
24 the Ministry of Natural Resources' chief role is
25 management, good management. Good management would

1 direct and control the conflicting interests of
2 tourism, logging industry and environmental protection.
3 The conflicts we see today are the result of poor
4 management, of a failure on the part of Ministry of
5 Natural Resources to accept its responsibility as an
6 authority, perhaps as a disciplinarian. The Ministry
7 knows the rules, they must keep them and they must
8 enforce them.

9 Our second point is about the Ministry
10 keeping its own rules. The cottage lots in the Crown
11 land around Bridgeland Lake were surveyed and sold to
12 cottagers at a market price which indicated that these
13 lots had an access road. Within five years of selling
14 the lots both the Ministry of Natural Resources and the
15 Ministry of Transport and Communications refused to
16 recognize this road or maintain it; the road no longer
17 had an official existence. This is a direct betrayal
18 of the conditions of sale.

19 Also, when these lots were purchased from
20 the Ministry of Natural Resources we were carefully
21 instructed, the conditions of sale were very specific,
22 the Ministry even retained some rights, for example,
23 mineral rights on our lots. We were prohibited from
24 stripping our lots of forest, only a few trees might be
25 removed for cottage construction. We were impressed

1 with the importance of sanitation, of not disturbing
2 the shoreline or the water life and we have respected
3 all these rules; the Ministry did not.

4 Now, 10 years after the purchase, we
5 discover that the Ministry has a five-year plan of
6 forest management which will bring logging to the
7 shores and to the vicinity of Bridgeland Lake.

8 Here we wish to stress a very important
9 point about our environment, it has to do with
10 watershed. If the Ministry permits the logging in
11 areas it has designated over the next five years our
12 watershed will be threatened, possibly destroyed.
13 Already we have seen large areas laid waste, trails
14 turned into fields of mud, masses of broken and tangled
15 branches which are totally impassable by man or beast
16 and large areas scraped clean of the thin topsoil
17 leaving a moonscape over which heavy rains create
18 floods that wipe out the remaining soil, ignore the
19 springs and would eventually eliminate our lake.

20 It is not sufficient that logging is kept
21 out of sight of the cottages. If the surrounding hills
22 are devastated the present watershed will degenerate
23 and the lake itself will be threatened and this is
24 because the Ministry of Natural Resources has failed to
25 keep its own rules.

1 Our Cottagers' Association would also
2 like to speak about defollients which are used in our
3 area. We protest the use of defollients by the small
4 contractors who work for the Hydro, the Ontario
5 Provincial Police and the Ministry of Natural
6 Resources. It is not satisfactory to us that they post
7 signs warning that defollients have been used. (a) we
8 want to know before follients are used; (b) we want to
9 know what is being used; (c) we want to know how these
10 chemicals which wash into our streams and eventually
11 into Bridgeland Lake will affect our lives and the
12 lives of the animals in the area.

13 Finally, the Bridgeland Lake Cottagers'
14 Association protests that the Ministry of Natural
15 Resources neglects its role as an authority, as the
16 disciplinarian. It is the Ministry who must take
17 offenders to court. For example, unskilled loggers who
18 have permission to remove a specific tree, let's say a
19 birch tree, frequently damage everything within a yard
20 of that tree. The trees that are left standing will
21 soon die.

22 In closing I remind you that the
23 Environmental Assessment Board and the Ministry of
24 Natural Resources must be aware of its lofty purpose as
25 the representative of a sovereign people. They may not

1 turn a blind eye to minor infringements either of the
2 law or of the ideals of the Canadian people; they must
3 fulfill their responsibility to manage these resources.

4 It's poor economics to change an area
5 that contributes to a steady income through logging,
6 recreation and tourism into a meager, once in a
7 lifetime logging operation. The logger will never be
8 able to return the forest if he devastates it, but
9 tourism contributes income year after year after year.
10 Cottage lots, recreation and tourism offer far greater
11 opportunities for commercialism and for economic profit
12 than we at present exploit. Destruction of the forest
13 will lose these opportunities. Let us keep our
14 managers mindful that they are managers.

15 Thank you.

16 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, Professor Kerr.
17 You referred to your particular situation where the MNR
18 appears to be working on a timber management plan.

19 MS. KERR: Yes, they have shown us that
20 plan.

21 MADAM CHAIR: And what is the area that
22 the timber management plan applies to?

23 MS. KERR: Well, of course they have
24 technical names for it, but we have been looking at
25 maps in Blind River which cover the area around Tunnel

1 Lake, Highway 129, and the Kirkland Lake nurseries
2 called Nursery - there's a Kirkland Lake forest project
3 in that area.

4 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. And one
5 comment, you were referring I think to the aerial
6 spraying of chemicals near your cottage.

7 MS. KERR: I don't believe the spraying
8 we saw could have been aerial. They go into -- they
9 plant, the plantation people plant rows upon rows upon
10 rows of pines. When these pines reach perhaps four or
11 five years I think they must sneak in in the dark at
12 night with sprayers and suddenly all the other plants
13 in the area die.

14 We are warned not to eat the berries and
15 the blueberries that year, but for years afterward not
16 a berry, not a blueberry, not a squirrel or a chipmunk,
17 nothing appears where this spraying came quietly in the
18 night.

19 MADAM CHAIR: Certainly the Board has
20 received considerable evidence about the spray programs
21 by the Ministry of Natural Resources and some of the
22 spraying involves pesticide spraying for something like
23 spruce budworm, and then other spray programs - which
24 may be what you're thinking of - have to do with
25 herbicide sprays and certainly we have a vast amount of

1 evidence on those subjects, and if you would care to
2 look at any of that in our transcripts we would
3 certainly be happy to point you to that.

4 Our understanding in the evidence before
5 us is that if there would be -- if there is spraying
6 planned over the five years of the timber management
7 plan you refer to, then somewhere in that plan that
8 would be stated that there might be spraying.

9 MS. KERR: And what the spray is and how
10 it affects human life?

11 MADAM CHAIR: I don't know if it would be
12 that specific, but you would certainly -- if you were
13 alerted to that, you have every right to ask the MNR
14 for very concise details about how that would be
15 undertaken; when, where, what, and all of that.

16 MS. KERR: Thank you very much.

17 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, Professor Kerr.

18 MR. MARTEL: Could I ask you a question
19 before you leave.

20 MS. KERR: I'm sorry.

21 MR. MARTEL: Are you suggesting that the
22 existing buffers -- you spoke about your concern that
23 the watershed in the area--

24 MS. KERR: That's right.

25 MR. MARTEL: --your cottage is that the

1 buffers weren't sufficient. Can you tell me how wide
2 the buffers were?

3 MS. KERR: So far I'm talking about a
4 plan that is to take place in the future, but there are
5 specific figures for the amount of buffer space, how
6 many metres it will be or, for example, they promise it
7 will be out of sight.

8 But the point I wish to impress you with
9 is that out of sight may not necessarily be out of mind
10 as far as damage to the watershed is concerned; that
11 is, if there was, for example, lumbering going on on
12 the opposite shore but there was a very high hill, then
13 the lumbering would be close to the shoreline, but if
14 it was flat it would be a farther distance because we
15 could still see them. So they guarantee not to destroy
16 our view but they don't guarantee not to destroy our
17 lake.

18 MR. MARTEL: So you're not suggesting --
19 well then, it's not a buffer that you're concerned
20 with, it's more extensive than that.

21 MS. KERR: I'm concerned about the
22 watershed.

23 MR. MARTEL: Yes, which goes far beyond
24 the buffer.

25 MS. KERR: Yes, it's about the collection

1 of water in these little streams and rivers which flow
2 into lakes which eventually become the Great Lakes,
3 we're still on that watershed and so it's really
4 essential, not just to Bridgeland Lake, but to all the
5 people below that watershed that it be protected.

6 MR. MARTEL: All right, thank you.

7 MADAM CHAIR: Does anyone else wish to
8 ask a question of Professor Kerr.

9 (no response)

10 All right. We understand that a
11 representative is here this afternoon from the
12 Woodworkers Union, the IWA. He or she has not
13 identified themselves to the Board. If they are
14 present in the audience and wish to come forward,
15 please do so now.

16 There is only one other scheduled
17 presentation for this afternoon's session from a Mr.
18 Steve Taylor. Is there anyone else in the audience who
19 would like to address the Board this afternoon, and you
20 might raise your hand and identify yourselves.

21 We are going to ask Mr. Taylor, if we can
22 get in touch with him, if we can reschedule his
23 presentation for this evening at seven o'clock.

24 The Board is proposing today to recess
25 now, we will be back at 4:30 to hear a presentation by

1 Mr. Steve Taylor who is apparently a tourist outfitter
2 on route by plane to see us. So we will reconvene for
3 a short time at 4:30 and then we will begin our evening
4 session at seven.

5 Ms. Blastorah?

6 MS. BLASTORAH: Madam Chair, perhaps just
7 before we break, I have Affidavits of Service in
8 relation to this hearing and I could file those now.

9 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, Ms. Blastorah.

10 MS. BLASTORAH: I'll give the actual
11 copies to Ms. Devaul but I'll read into the record the
12 description of the, affidavits if that's acceptable.

13 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you.

14 MS. BLASTORAH: First will be an
15 Affidavit of John Dadds dated August 29th in relation
16 to newspaper and radio service of notices of the Sault
17 Ste. Marie community hearing.

18 MADAM CHAIR: That will be Exhibit 1293.

19 ---EXHIBIT NO. 1293: Affidavit of Service of John
20 Dadds dated August 29, 1990.

21 MS. BLASTORAH: And secondly is an
22 Affidavit of Tracy Tieman.

23 MADAM CHAIR: Do you want these to have
24 separate exhibit numbers?

25 MS. BLASTORAH: I think so. Certainly

1 Ms. Tieman's Affidavit is quite substantial and I think
2 it would probably merit a number of its own on weight
3 alone.

4 MADAM CHAIR: That will be Exhibit 1294.

5 ---EXHIBIT NO. 1294: Affidavit of Service of Tracy
6 Tieman dated August 29, 1990.

7 MS. BLASTORAH: And that one is an
8 Affidavit of Ms. Tieman, again dated August 29th
9 relation to the Sault Ste. Marie community hearing.

10 And just for the information of the Board
11 I would advise that approximately 2,800 mailed notices,
12 which is the subject of Ms. Tieman's Affidavit, were
13 mailed in relation to this community hearing in
14 addition to the newspaper and radio notices.

15 MADAM CHAIR: Mr. Cassidy?

16 MR. CASSIDY: Madam Chair, just two small
17 items in response to or in discussion with Ms. Kerr.

18 I believe you indicated that there was a
19 substantial amount of evidence on the use of pesticides
20 in the province, and while you were making that comment
21 I was able to extract the volume numbers of the
22 evidence to date dealing with that and I thought
23 that -- I'm not sure if Ms. Kerr is still in the room,
24 but I would be happy at the break to provide her with
25 those.

1 There are some 20 numbers and I realize
2 with 229 volumes of transcript it might be kind of
3 difficult for her to find it. So if she's still in the
4 room or is hearing this in some fashion, I would be
5 happy to provide those numbers to her if she wishes to
6 review the transcript.

7 The second item I wanted to mention was
8 that the Board has indicated an interest in response to
9 a letter that I sent that you wish to take some time
10 when the Board is not sitting tomorrow morning to tour
11 the research facilities of the Forestry Canada Research
12 Lab here in Sault Ste. Marie and I am advised that
13 transportation will be available for the Board tomorrow
14 morning at 8:45 a.m. to depart for the research
15 facility.

16 I am also advised that the tour will take
17 approximately an hour and a half to two hours
18 commencing at 9:00 a.m., and I'm also advised that
19 there is limited space available for representatives
20 from the other major parties who are present at the
21 hearing to attend on that tour and we could arrange
22 that if people would advise me as soon as possible for
23 the tour tomorrow morning.

24 MADAM CHAIR: All right. Thank you, Mr.
25 Cassidy.

1 Professor Kerr?

2 FROM THE AUDIENCE: She's not in the room
3 at the moment.

4 MADAM CHAIR: Are you with Professor
5 Kerr, sir?

6 FROM THE AUDIENCE: Yes.

7 MADAM CHAIR: Do you wish to receive the
8 transcript reference numbers that Mr. Cassidy has?
9 Perhaps the two of you could get together when we
10 adjourn.

11 MR. CASSIDY: Thank you.

12 MADAM CHAIR: All right. Thank you very
13 much, ladies and gentlemen, for coming this afternoon.
14 We will be back at 4:30 to sit for a short time and
15 then we'll be sitting well into the evening starting at
16 seven o'clock.

17 Thank you.

18 ---Recess taken at 3:20 p.m.

19 ---On resuming at 4:30 p.m.

20 MADAM CHAIR: Please be seated, ladies
21 and gentlemen.

22 We have reconvened our afternoon session
23 in order to hear a presentation from Mr. Steven Taylor.

24 Is Mr. Taylor here?

25 Yes, Mr. Taylor, would you approach the

1 Board, please.

2 STEVEN TAYLOR, Sworn

3 MADAM CHAIR: Please proceed, Mr. Taylor.

4 MR. TAYLOR: Okay. I am representing the
5 Voyageur Trail Association. We are an association of
6 member clubs along the Lake Superior shoreline and east
7 of Sault Ste. Marie. We have the objective of building
8 a continuous trail from Thunder Bay to Manitoulin
9 Island. The trail is eventually to form part of a
10 national trail which goes from coast to coast.

11 We currently have pieces of trail in
12 place. We have over 400 kilometres of trail. Some of
13 this trail is on Crown land. We feel that up to now
14 we've had good cooperation with the MNR in all
15 districts of concern. They've listened to our concerns
16 and usually produced a solution which has been
17 acceptable to us. We realize that cooperation is a
18 two-way process and we have tried to live up to that
19 part as well.

20 We are concerned that our interest will
21 continue to be addressed in the future, at least to the
22 same degree as they have in the past. In spite of
23 cooperation, one thing that did occur during the mid
24 80s was that a company cutting on Crown land cut a
25 buffer around our trail in Chesley Township. It was

1 supposed to have been left uncut in the terms of the
2 licence.

3 They were asked to re-establish the
4 trail. This was done, but the tire ruts caused water
5 ponding and we had to reroute the trail. Also, where
6 they left the buffer uncut, some slash was dropped on
7 it.

8 We feel that the penalty for violating
9 the terms of a licence should be severe enough that
10 companies will make sure that such buffers aren't cut
11 either by accident or on purpose. We wish to make sure
12 that buffers around our trail should be in place
13 wherever possible. There may be some cases where we
14 have to negotiate another solution or accept another
15 solution.

16 Buffers should be such that trees and
17 debris do not end up on the trail and blow down around
18 the trail should be minimized as well. Trails and
19 buffers could form a layer in GIS databases in the
20 future and I know that the MNR is going towards GIS
21 databases now.

22 Some members have expressed concerns
23 about slash left on trail and pesticide drift into
24 buffers and we feel that these concerns should always
25 be addressed in the timber management planning process.

1 Our executive feels -- this is sort of a
2 separate point, but our executive feels that the area
3 around the Lake Superior shoreline is a major attribute
4 to northern Ontario because of the habitat diversity,
5 the beauty and the sensitivity of the area to
6 disturbance. Tourists from around the world travel to
7 this area because of its scenic beauty and much of our
8 intended trail route for the future is near or along
9 the shoreline.

10 We would like to see consideration given
11 to the establishment of a no-logging buffer which is at
12 least two kilometres wide around our Lake Superior
13 shoreline on Crown land.

14 And those are the points that I was asked
15 to present today.

16 MADAM CHAIR: Mr. Taylor, I think I
17 incorrectly identified you earlier as being a tourist
18 operator.

19 MR. TAYLOR: No, we are a volunteer
20 organization.

21 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you.

22 MR. MARTEL: The buffer along Lake
23 Superior is, you say, two kilometres? You want --

24 MR. TAYLOR: That's what we've discussed
25 amongst the executive of the club and that seems to be

1 a feeling based, I think, in part on the fact that the
2 slope up from the lake is often more than a kilometre
3 wide and often the trail is right on top of it where we
4 have trail now and we assume that that will be the case
5 in some of the other areas in the future.

6 MR. MARTEL: Yes. I was going to ask
7 your reason -- you gave part of your reason for
8 establishing a two-mile buffer or wanting a two-mile
9 buffer.

10 MR. TAYLOR: Sorry?

11 MR. MARTEL: I was going to ask you why
12 you set two kilometres as the size of the buffer. Part
13 of the reason I think you just gave, but I didn't hear
14 it quite clearly. Could you repeat it, please.

15 MR. TAYLOR: Sorry. A lot of the slope
16 up from the lake -- the slope around the lake up to the
17 top of the surrounding hills is more than one kilometre
18 in width and often a trail goes to the top of the
19 slope. There are many good views of the lake from
20 around there and also from the lake a lot of logging
21 would be seen if the buffer was just one kilometre.

22 I'm not too - what's the word -
23 knowledgeable on this, but I also know that some of our
24 members in Wawa feel there are some sensitive areas
25 within two kilometres of the lake between Lake Superior

1 Park and Pukaskwa Park on Crown land.

2 MADAM CHAIR: Mr. Taylor, does your
3 association have any idea of how much your trails are
4 used by the public?

5 MR. TAYLOR: Trails are used -- do you
6 want a figure for the number of people, say, per
7 season?

8 MADAM CHAIR: Do you have that sort of
9 information?

10 MR. TAYLOR: We can infer. The best
11 indication we have is on how well the trail seems to
12 maintain itself in terms of being trampled down. There
13 are areas which are much heavily -- more heavily used
14 than other areas. These tend to be near roads, access
15 roads; areas, for example, to the north of the Garden
16 River Reserve, there are not too many access roads and
17 those trails don't get a lot of use. They get used by
18 people who are intent on hiking along a section of
19 trail.

20 We have between 150 and 200 members and
21 many of these are family members. So couples or whole
22 families will use the trail and we know that we get a
23 lot of use from non-members as well.

24 MADAM CHAIR: Does anyone in the audience
25 wish to question Mr. Taylor?

1 (no response)

2 All right. Thank you very much, Mr.

3 Taylor.

4 MR. TAYLOR: Thank you.

5 MADAM CHAIR: Is there anyone now who

6 wishes to say something to the Board rather than

7 returning this evening at seven o'clock?

8 (no response)

9 All right. We will adjourn then and we
10 will recommence at seven. Thank you.

11 ---Recess taken at 4:40 p.m.

12 ---On resuming at 7:00 p.m.

13 MADAM CHAIR: Please be seated.

14 Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Thank
15 you for coming this evening to the second session of
16 our timber management hearing in Sault Ste. Marie and
17 Mr. Martel and I thank you very much for meeting with
18 us this evening.

19 I am going to give a few brief
20 introductory remarks and for those of you who were here
21 this afternoon it will be a bit trying to sit through
22 them again, but I think for the benefit of people who
23 have shown up for the first time I should do that.

24 These remarks will be brief and if there
25 is anyone in the audience who wants me repeat them in

1 French I am happy to do so.

2 Bon soir, mes dames et messieurs. S'il y
3 a quelqu'un qui est présent dans l'audience qui
4 voudrait que je répète un mot de bienvenue ou la marche
5 à suivre en français, je suis contente de le faire.

6 Aussi, il y a des traducteurs dans la
7 salle pour les présentations, si vous voulez.

8 My colleague, Elie Martel, is known I
9 think to most people. He was a strong representative
10 of northern interests in the Ontario legislature for 20
11 years and we are very fortunate to have him participate
12 at this hearing. My name is Anne Koven and I Chair the
13 hearing.

14 We are assisted by Daniel Pascoe - I
15 don't see Daniel here, could you stand up please,
16 Daniel. Thank you - Michele Devaul and Janet Martel
17 who is seated outside this room. If you have any
18 questions about the Board or about this process you can
19 speak to them.

20 Mr. Martel and I are members of the
21 Environmental Assessment Board. We are appointed by
22 the Ontario government for periods of three years. We
23 were doing this hearing as our full-time occupation and
24 what is it that we do exactly. We listen to the
25 evidence. We have been conducting this hearing now for

1 over two years which has resulted in 229 days of
2 hearing time and almost 40,000 pages of written
3 transcript. We have held hearings like this one in
4 Dryden and in Fort Frances and from here we will be
5 moving on to Geraldton, Hearst and Espanola and Timmins
6 on this leg of the hearing schedule.

7 We listen to the evidence for the reason
8 of making a decision about this application before us,
9 and the proponent in this case is the Ministry of
10 Natural Resources, the subject is timber management
11 planning. We are guided by the Environmental
12 Assessment Act which tells us what we have to do when
13 we make this decision. We listen to all of the
14 evidence and consider what all of the potential
15 aspects, environmental aspects of this application will
16 mean to everyone.

17 After hearing the evidence, we will make
18 a decision about whether or not to approve this
19 application and I think it is important in forums like
20 this that people understand we have by no means made up
21 our mind about this application. We have a great deal
22 more evidence that will be put before us and we will be
23 reviewing all of it and everything that's said to us
24 will be reflected in our decision.

25 We have a few rules about how we conduct

1 this proceeding. We will call on people who contacted
2 us when notice of this hearing was published in the
3 newspaper. After that, we will call on anyone in the
4 room who wishes to address the Board. We will ask you
5 to come to this table and be sworn in, if you are
6 comfortable doing that.

7 Everyone in the audience is free to ask
8 questions about what anybody else is saying. Mr.
9 Martel and I will also likely ask you a few questions
10 if you make a presentation so that we can understand
11 clearly what you are telling us.

12 We have full-time parties who appear
13 regularly before us and some of them are here and I
14 will introduce them. You will know in that case if
15 they ask you a question whose interest they represent.
16 Mr. Don Huff is with the Forests for Tomorrow
17 coalition, Dr. Terry Quinney is with the Ontario
18 Federation of Anglers & Hunters, Mr. Paul Cassidy is
19 with the Ontario Forest Industry Association and the
20 Lumber Manufacturers Association, Betsy Harvie is with
21 the Ministry of the Environment and Catherine Blastorah
22 represents the Ministry of Natural Resources.

23 If you have a written presentation,
24 please give it to us, we will give it an exhibit number
25 and it will become part of the permanent record of the

1 hearing.

2 Everything that is being said in this
3 session is recorded by our court reporters, Marilyn
4 Callaghan, Beverley Dillabough and Eddie Dugas. Copies
5 of the transcripts are at the main public library in
6 Sault Ste. Marie.

7 We also have French interpreters
8 attending our hearing today. They are Roland Henri,
9 Laurie Saint-Martin and Angelo Macri.

10 So thank you again for coming this
11 evening and we will get started with our presentations
12 now.

13 I would add just one final word and that
14 is, when you are making a preparation if you could
15 speak slowly it would be very helpful.

16 The first person we will call on this
17 evening will be Mr. Brian Mealey. Is Mr. Mealey in the
18 audience?

19 (no response)

20 We will call the second person on the
21 list, Mr. Geoffrey Meakin.

22 Hello, Mr. Meakin.

23 GEOFFREY MEAKIN, Sworn

24 Mr. Meakin has submitted a written
25 presentation of nine pages and it is a statement made

1 by himself and he is operating as an independent
2 logging contractor in Sault Ste. Marie, and we will
3 give this Exhibit No. 1295.

4 ---EXHIBIT NO. 1295: Nine-page written presentation
5 submitted by Geoffrey Meakin.

6 MADAM CHAIR: Mr. Meakin.

7 MR. MEAKIN: Thank you, Madam Chairman
8 and fellow panelists. My name is Geoff Meakin, I live
9 in Sault Ste. Marie. I am very proud of my community
10 and take pride in my vocation as a logging contractor.

11 My involvement in the forest industry
12 started at the age of 17. I came north from the Ottawa
13 Valley to a job scaling logs for the Ontario Department
14 of Land and Forests. My time spent with the department
15 doing various tasks gave me a great deal of
16 appreciation for our forests. It varied from fighting
17 fires and planting trees to waste inspection on
18 harvesting operations.

19 I left the department to work for
20 industry doing similar tasks. I went to Sault College
21 as a teaching technician for three years before making
22 the crazy decision in 1971 to go as a logging
23 contractor. How crazy is a thing like that? You
24 borrow \$10,000 from your father-in-law and you work
25 your butt off. Your wife gives you all the support she

1 can, she runs the house, she raises the kids, she banks
2 the money when there is some, and she also helps sand
3 roads and still is very active in the business.

4 How do you get through lean times such as
5 1982? You mortgage your home the second type around
6 and you change banks when the one you were operating at
7 no longer wants to do business with you. So don't tell
8 me that the logging contractors and woodworkers of this
9 province aren't as concerned as the rest of society
10 about the well being of our forests. The only
11 difference is that we live in it day in and day out
12 through good times and bad, not just on our holidays.

13 Loggers are human, we really are. We
14 have families to feed and do it by cutting down trees.
15 We use wood products in our homes and it enhances our
16 way of life. We are utilizing our renewable resource
17 as it was meant to be. However, we like our quiet
18 times by a stream or lake just like others. We enjoy
19 hunting and fishing just like so many of you. Most,
20 and I would say most, like any segment of society we
21 have our bad actors. The majority of forest workers
22 enjoy natural beauty of the woods, desire clean water
23 and clean air just like the rest of you.

24 I noticed yesterday that one of the
25 organization's informational displays promoted a

1 resource committee at a district or community level. I
2 support this line of thought. This past year I took
3 part in the five-year planning process by being on the
4 district timber management team. Participating in the
5 process was a very fulfilling and learning experience.
6 The team was drawn together by our local district
7 Ministry of Natural Resources. The people it
8 represented on the local level, tourist outfitters,
9 anglers and hunters, naturalists, the forest industry,
10 one person, and myself for the small woods operators.

11 We started meeting with much
12 apprehension, however, we soon found respect for each
13 others' needs and problems. These types of committees
14 could be expanded and go a long way in the promotion of
15 multiple-use management of our forests. Sensible but
16 enforceable conditions with proactive input such as
17 these committees instead of reaction enforcement would
18 help out a great deal.

19 My two main concerns for the panel to
20 address are the missing flexibility and the conditions
21 which will undoubtedly be imposed if the Ministry of
22 Natural Resources application to carry out timber
23 management on Crown land in Ontario is approved. And,
24 secondly, the need for a sufficient land base to carry
25 on harvesting operations to be able to supply the

1 mills.

2 I'll address the access point. At
3 present the road infrastructure for harvesting
4 operations equal 25 per cent of harvesting costs in the
5 hardwood industry around the Algoma District. In our
6 area the terrain is difficult, soils deep, rainfall
7 heavy and snowfall excessive, add on low harvestable
8 volumes of 2,000 to 3,000 fbm per hectare and you have
9 a dismal picture of many kilometres of roads to build
10 and maintain with low product dollar value. The dollar
11 value is just not there to carry too many costly
12 inflexible conditions on its own.

13 This year for instance we have been
14 operating at a restricted base and have to date built
15 18 kilometres of tertiary road, put in two bridges plus
16 one in the works and countless culverts. Many hours of
17 walking, much of it done on snowshoes in the latter
18 part of March was done to verify locations and stream
19 crossings.

20 Point one: It is no small task to keep
21 all of this moving ahead smoothly, location, approval,
22 Crown enditching, entrenching culverts and gravelling.
23 Please give some flexibility in the location of road
24 corridors on maps and stream crossing points. No one
25 can tell for sure from maps and aerial photographs if

1 you indeed can build a road or a bridge at a certain
2 point unless it is checked on the ground first.

3 Point No. 2: The new gravel put policy
4 the Ministry of Natural Resources came up with this
5 year needs flexibility also. Even though we were told
6 by an MNR road -- by an MNR official at a road seminar
7 to carry a shovel to check for gravel. This is
8 dreaming; the only shovel that can verify a gravel pit
9 is an excavator and it is often only a few days ahead
10 of the need of gravel. I do not agree that the paying
11 for the gravel extracted for the use on forestry roads.
12 The roads are usually open to the public and an asset
13 to timber management. It is understandable to have a
14 fee for each pit and conditions for leaving them
15 afterwards, but it is crazy to have to pay for the
16 gravel. I see it as another unnecessary Ministry of
17 Natural Resources burden.

18 Who do you think gets squeezed when
19 another unnecessary tax like this is imposed; it's the
20 contractor and the forestry workers producing the
21 products we get from the forest, that's is who.

22 Point No. 3: Bridges are costly to put
23 in but even costlier to take out. There needs to be
24 some real common sense thought put into this one. On
25 short-term roads used only for short periods, say two

1 to three months or even weeks, these roads do not need
2 an elaborate bridge. It makes more sense to leave the
3 abutments in, just take -- just removing the timber and
4 plank top.

5 It is nonsense to think that we can
6 afford to build all our forest logging roads and
7 bridges to high class standards. The value of the
8 products harvested can only carry a limited amount of
9 costs on their own.

10 The forests of today are no gold mine
11 here in the Algoma District. Our hardwood industry is
12 fighting for survival. Do you think Warehouser,
13 Welwood and G.W. Martin would have all sold out if
14 there were reasonable profits to be made. However, it
15 doesn't mean that because these companies left we
16 should turn the district all into a park; no, the
17 residents of this area and this province need the
18 economic benefits derived from wise multiple use
19 management, but there definitely is a limit to the
20 costs that the forest products industry can bear for
21 the extraction of this raw material.

22 Harvesting: I came up against an
23 interesting one in regards to harvesting this spring in
24 our hardwood cutting blocks. Having a tour of our job
25 site, Ministry of Natural Resources officials, some of

1 who were from the Algonquin Park area stated that we
2 were making ruts with our skidders and if it was their
3 region we would be shut down until it dried up.

4 Okay, that was on the Thursday and on the
5 following Monday we received a notice that we should be
6 prepared to cease operations because of the fire
7 hazard. Under this line of thought from the Ministry
8 of Natural Resources, please, when do we work, Friday?

9 Point No. 1: In regards of fire hazard
10 shutdowns. Please have some sensitivity towards forest
11 workers who have to make payments and who don't get
12 paid unless they produce. If the Ministry of Natural
13 Resources pulls the forest workers out of the bush,
14 don't you think that they had better keep the tourists
15 at home also.

16 Point No. 2: Waste. Waste in the
17 harvesting process. To me waste is a piece of wood
18 which is uneconomical to deliver to the mills. Since a
19 tree comes in various lengths it hardly ever fits the
20 product. Example, taking our jack pine operation, a
21 tree having a stump diameter of 12 inches and a height
22 of 66 feet the merchantable length up to 4 inches at
23 the top being 58 feet. I'm a little old fashioned here
24 in my feet measurements.

25 We would have to cut four different

1 products from this tree going to three different mills.
2 The slasher operator is called upon to make continuous
3 decisions. This tree would be cut into two 16-foot
4 sawlogs for Midway Lumber in Thessalon, one 16-foot
5 forest sawlong and an 8-foot forest stud log for E.B.
6 Eddy at Nairne Centre with no waste.

7 However, they aren't all 58 feet long.
8 Like we humans, trees come in various diameters and
9 heights. So my operator, like a carpenter building a
10 set of cupboards will be unable to utilize every piece
11 of a 4 by 8 sheet of plywood used in the process, so he
12 too will have some pieces left over, waste.

13 In the cutting up of tree lengths at road
14 sides or at landings, given the various lengths,
15 diameters, and degrees of quality we have to work with
16 and the specifications we have to work with, there will
17 indeed be unused portions left.

18 Roadside waste can be avoided by (a)
19 manufacturing the tree at the stump; (b) tree-length
20 hauling to the mills, unfortunately not all operations
21 are able to do this due to various circumstances,
22 therefore, we will have waste.

23 Renewal: I believe that we in the
24 logging contracting business are indeed very much aware
25 of the need for renewal, we would be fools otherwise,

1 and it gives me great pleasure to go back to areas we
2 have harvested and see the results of the Ministry of
3 Natural Resources silvicultural activities and their
4 tree planting programs providing a new forest.

5 My concern is: Are they doing enough?
6 The answer usually is: We can't do more, we have no
7 money. I think this is the result of the age old
8 problem for our government leaders: Where do we spend
9 the tax monies; do we spend them on long-term benefits
10 on our forests which supply us with so much, or in
11 short-term continuous social needs of our present
12 society?

13 I believe the Ministry of Natural
14 Resources is indeed doing what they can with the
15 dollars given to them for renewal. I also support the
16 Ministry of Natural Resources in the use of fire as a
17 management tool. Mother Nature has used it since the
18 dawn of time, so why can't we.

19 Maintenance: As a logging contractor and
20 a resident of northern Ontario I strongly support the
21 Ministry of Natural Resources in the use of herbicides
22 and insecticides in timber management. Of course I
23 would expect that they would be used in an
24 environmentally safe way. It continues to baffle me
25 why people who use pesticides sprays on their lawns, on

1 their gardens, on their field crops of all kinds can
2 tell the northern part of the province you can't use
3 these methods to assure us of making our living.

4 One interesting benefit I see in intensive
5 timber management in using all the tools at our
6 disposal would be less in the need to cover so much
7 ground to harvest wood at long distances from our
8 mills. You can harvest just as much and maybe more on
9 a smaller land base, maybe harvesting operations would
10 not have to threaten fly-in tourist lodges.

11 My employees and I would surely
12 appreciate being able to commute daily instead of in
13 some cases being three hours away living in camp
14 accommodation. It's rather hard, as the saying goes,
15 to have our cake and eat it too. If any of you think
16 that the Ministry of Natural Resources is going easy on
17 us loggers, think again. We have so many applications
18 to fill out and conditions to abide by that we are
19 coming close to be conditioned to death.

20 I believe the logging segment of the
21 forest industry is making steady progress and being
22 more committed to the needs of other forest users. We
23 no longer use brush culverts, we no longer use dirt
24 covered bridges, we no longer build roads without first
25 pre-cutting the timber on the right-of-way, we no

1 longer tolerate the dumping of waste soil and garbage
2 on our operations.

3 In ending, if we are going to succeed in
4 keeping our province strong in overall forest
5 management we are going to do it just like these
6 environmental assessment meetings are going to be
7 successful, because flexibility was brought in and
8 changes were made as they progressed. So we must all
9 allow for flexibility in the planning process.

10 It is hoped that the parameters for the
11 many conditions which will come out of these hearings
12 will be broad enough and common sense will prevail.
13 The benefit of society as a whole depend on the giving
14 of some regard for those of us who prefer to make our
15 home and place of work in northern Ontario and not the
16 smog shrouded and congested urban south.

17 We loggers have come a long way in the
18 last few years and we know we still have farther to go,
19 but I only hope that the Ministry of Natural Resources
20 and you give us a chance.

21 Thank you.

22 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Meakin.

23 (applause)

24 Mr. Meakin, I have a question for you
25 about your experience, your participation on a timber

1 management planning team where you worked with the
2 Ministry of Natural Resources and representatives of
3 other groups in preparing that plan.

4 Did you feel very much that your position
5 was one of being advisory, did you feel that you were
6 able to be influential in the way that the final
7 decision about the plans were arrived at, and were
8 there situations where in fact the district manager had
9 to make a decision because you couldn't get agreement
10 from everyone around the table?

11 MR. MEAKIN: Well, as far as the process
12 was concerned it was invigorating for all of us and we
13 felt that we certainly learned from each other and we
14 learned, like as I said, to appreciate each other's
15 thought and we advised as best we could, you know, and
16 then the Ministry took those points and made their
17 decisions.

18 MADAM CHAIR: You mention in your
19 presentation that you would like to see that same
20 system expanded. Did you mean in respect to other
21 resource planning systems, or within timber management
22 planning somehow?

23 MR. MEAKIN: Oh, I guess maybe I was
24 looking at the thought that maybe within the districts
25 when the local communities that, you know, maybe more

1 people if they wanted to become involved could become
2 involved.

3 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. And another
4 question about the payments that you make to the
5 Ministry with respect to the use of gravel. What is
6 the size of those payments?

7 MR. MEAKIN: As a logging contractor I
8 don't make any myself, but the people that I contract
9 for such as Lajambe Forest Products would and I think
10 yesterday Mr. Lajambe mentioned something like next
11 year it will probably cost about \$25,000 just in
12 payments for gravel for the one summer's use.

13 MADAM CHAIR: All right. Thank you very
14 much.

15 MR. MARTEL: Does Lajambe get a subsidy
16 from the government through the FMA for the Crown
17 management unit for the cost of maintenance?

18 MR. MEAKIN: Okay. If I'm -- I think I'm
19 correct, I don't believe that there is an FMA in a
20 forest in this particular area.

21 MR. MARTEL: But the Crown then is doing
22 the work in there itself; is it not?

23 MR. MEAKIN: Yeah, the Crown I believe is
24 doing the regeneration and so on themselves, yeah. We
25 have not got a half a million forest.

1 MR. MARTEL: I'm just trying to
2 understand if there is not some sort of subsidy to the
3 individual who in fact is doing the roadwork there,
4 either the Crown does it or they do it, but there is
5 some sort of repayment; is there not, for doing that
6 sort of work?

7 MR. MEAKIN: I believe it is on certain
8 roads, Mr. Martel, on certain main access roads there
9 is a subsidy to the companies to upgrade them or even
10 build them. My main concern would be the tertiary
11 temporary logging roads off these main access roads
12 which we have to gravel for extraction too in the
13 summer.

14 MADAM CHAIR: Would anyone else like to
15 question Mr. Meakin?

16 Ms. Blastorah?

17 MS. BLASTORAH: I just have one point of
18 clarification, Madam Chair. Mr. Meakin, I don't know
19 whether you know or not, but could you confirm that
20 those payments are made under the Aggregates Act. Is
21 that what you were speaking of?

22 MR. MEAKIN: That's right, it would be
23 Aggregates Act, yeah.

24 MS. BLASTORAH: Thank you.

25 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr.

1 Meakin.

2 MR. MEAKIN: Thank you.

3 MADAM CHAIR: Excuse me.

4 FROM THE AUDIENCE: I would like to ask
5 Mr. Meakin if he has any concerns about once a logging
6 road is put in and the wood is extracted --

7 MADAM CHAIR: Excuse me, sir. Could you
8 stand at the microphone. I don't think everyone in the
9 room can hear you.

10 FROM THE AUDIENCE: I was wondering what
11 Mr. Meakin thought about what happens to areas once you
12 put a road into an area that was formerly inaccessible,
13 he's taken the logs out, what are his concerns if any
14 of the area being opened up to all kinds of users like
15 hunters and fishermen and all that?

16 What I'm getting at is all-terrain
17 vehicles and the damage they do to the environment?

18 MR. MEAKIN: Well, I guess that is beyond
19 my capability to do anything about those situations.
20 Once roads are in place they are in place, you know. I
21 mean, I could be concerned about it, but it's beyond my
22 control.

23 FROM THE AUDIENCE: I mean, you just
24 stated that, you know, you did have concerns, long-term
25 concerns and I think, you know, I have witnessed what

1 happens with once roads are put into areas which were
2 previously inaccessible and there doesn't seem --
3 there's a lot of these roads being put in Algoma
4 District where it just seems to be a big problem for
5 the Ministry of Natural Resources, say wildlife
6 conservation officers to manage, you know, hunting and
7 fishing. It just makes it easier for people to get to
8 those areas and the Ministry can't control all those
9 access points.

10 MR. MEAKIN: Well, my position would be
11 that the hunters and fishermen have every right to use
12 those roads like everyone else after they're built
13 because it is their land too.

14 FROM THE AUDIENCE: Okay. What I'm
15 getting at is, if you reforest an area, you go to all
16 the trouble of planting it and then you have someone go
17 in with an all-terrain vehicle and run down trees, run
18 in their with snow machines and run over the trees, I
19 think there should be some concern there.

20 MR. MEAKIN: Oh yes, there would be
21 definitely a concern there, but like that is totally up
22 to the Ministry of Natural Resources to patrol the
23 thing like that.

24 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you.

25 MR. MEAKIN: But there would be a

1 concern, you know, but how do you do anything about it?
2 Some of the things, like with the bridges being
3 removed, that does limit access to certain areas.

4 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr.
5 Meakin.

6 MR. MEAKIN: Thank you.

7 MADAM CHAIR: We will hear from Mr. Gary
8 Boissineau.

9 MR. BOISSINEAU: (handed)

10 GARY BOISSINEAU, Sworn

11 MR. BOISSINEAU: Okay. At the onset I
12 wish I was a little more prepared but I have so many
13 things on the go right now, I'll do the best I can.

14 As you can see by the sweater I'm wearing
15 I'm a fur harvester and very proud of it. I have lived
16 in the Soo all my life and I have always had concerns
17 about our environment.

18 I have only recently surfaced as a person
19 pursuing rights for our forests and our animals and our
20 tourist operators and our hunters and fishermen and
21 trappers and our naturlists. I am all of these things
22 in some degree. I have a broad field of concerns. I
23 have some very specific ones tonight, but I would like
24 to tell you, of all the years I have spent in the Soo I
25 have pursued many different activities all concerning

1 going into the woods per se for one reason or another.

2 I am a licensed trapper and so is my wife
3 and I hope to pursue that forever. I don't know when
4 that will be the case. I would like to pinpoint eight
5 townships in the northern part of the Soo District. I
6 have a map, I'll hold it up very briefly, you really
7 don't have to see it and you don't have to know
8 anything about it, all I want you to do is look at the
9 black that is on the map and this will clarify my
10 point.

11 MADAM CHAIR: What we would ask you to do
12 Mr. Boissineau, is: Will you leave this map with us or
13 can you provide us with a copy of this map and we can
14 make it an exhibit at the hearing?

15 MR. BOISSINEAU: Yes. I will see that my
16 good friends at MNR help me out with this.

17 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you.

18 MR. BOISSINEAU: Anyway that map, you
19 really don't have to see it in great detail other than
20 just notice the dark on the map and this is basically
21 eight townships and what's going to happen to these
22 eight townships, some of it is already done, some of it
23 is yet to be done, and this is my area of concern.

24 Thank you.

25 In this area I have spent the better part

1 of my life. It has remained basically unchanged with
2 the exception of a very few amount of roads put in. I
3 have kind of lived in harmony with tourist operators
4 and I respect their position. I have a great many
5 friends in the logging industry and I certainly respect
6 that is their livelihood and I don't mean to take it
7 away from them, but the difference for me when I go
8 into these places as I have for over 30 years, I like
9 to think I can go back and find the same thing that I
10 left there.

11 And I do that all the time. I have
12 canoes in the bush, I have an axe over here, a tea pail
13 over there, whatever I have it's spread all over, I
14 don't even know where some of it is, I have lost track
15 of it. Mind you, I don't think I am polluting, it's
16 placed, it's not tossed.

17 But by and large my point is most lumber
18 people - and I don't mean to slander them - when they
19 go into an area they don't go back because a man's
20 lifetime doesn't permit him that, it takes 70 years to
21 get that forest back and if he starts at a tender age
22 of 15 he's a very old man before that forest is back
23 again.

24 For hunters and fishermen and trappers
25 and tourist operators, contrary to what you may have

1 heard, it is a gold mine for me.

2 When loggers are through, if it is done
3 incorrectly, I don't return. This has happened in a
4 number of areas and it makes me very sad.

5 Anyway, I will get to my points. I have
6 been in timber management here in the Sault and I have
7 dealt with all our local people as I do with my fur
8 harvesting. I am interested in moose management and
9 spraying. I have all kinds of concerns, but I have
10 some very specific ones and the Ministry locally, Ron
11 Lissard in particular has been a real trooper.

12 He has done everything in his power, I
13 think, through local hearings and talking to people, he
14 has permitted me to put in input on road access and
15 where they belong and my reasons. My wife and I have
16 submitted an extensive amount of information where
17 calving grounds are for moose, where they winter, what
18 kind of fish are in what kind of lake, my opinions
19 about things, where there's rookies, where there's
20 osprey nests. We've put in a lot. I could have put in
21 a great deal more, but I chose to limit myself to my
22 trapline. I thought they wouldn't believe me if I put
23 in too much, but irregardless of that, they took it all
24 and I think it has made a difference.

25 I have four points that I have problems

1 with. My first and foremost is access. It's not good
2 enough to put a road in cheap where there is gravel,
3 that's no good. I could care less about that point of
4 view. You put a road near a moose aquatic area, you
5 have disrupted these animals immensely.

6 A cow moose with twin calves needs an
7 awful lot of milk. They depend on feed to produce that
8 milk, they depend on the cover that surrounds these
9 areas. If a road goes in, the moose leave. Moose have
10 special areas where they have their young year in and
11 year out. Any knowledgeable seal will confirm that,
12 These places I see destroyed. Winter grounds are
13 protected somewhat because any fool with an aircraft
14 can see there is a moose down there.

15 When areas are clearcut, you have a
16 tremendous, tremendous displacement of animals. I have
17 made notes of this and I submitted it to go on the
18 record on my trapline file. Basically what happens,
19 the larger ones move on, the wolves in particular, they
20 overlap. When this occurs, beaver get heavily preyed
21 upon. My particular trapline is near non-existent for
22 moose calves. I pointed it out to the COs of my area.
23 I think flying last winter may have proven some of
24 this. I certainly can tell you I cover every inch of
25 it. I do not have moose calves, I have lots of wolves.

1 Anyway, the point of disturbance
2 ultimately leads to far less of everything, whether
3 it's fish, whether it's fur bearers, whether it's large
4 animals, small, birds. You can't build a road right up
5 to a rookery and expect the birds to like that. You
6 are going to disrupt them, especially birds like
7 osprey.

8 I could spend a lot of time on access,
9 but I think you have basically got my drift that access
10 is the prime importance. If a lot of work is done
11 putting the road in the right place -- I'm talking
12 basically semi-permanent or permanent roads, I'm not
13 talking about these skidding trails on slopes where
14 they don't belong.

15 Overharvest coincides with access.
16 That's my second point. To leave a token distance next
17 to a river is inexcuseable. The animals, in particular
18 the moose, have their calves next to the rivers because
19 they can do that without worrying about bears. Bears
20 really don't walk the shoreline all that much.

21 The fisheries is extremely disrupted,
22 silting, particularly it washes into the river. If you
23 ever been out in April and gone to some of these
24 operations when the skidders are through, it's quite
25 unbelievable the amount of silting that is taking

1 place. In August and July you'd never know it
2 happened.

3 They overharvest to the point where
4 tourist operators have to get road injunctions. This
5 has happened in our area. Some of our tourist
6 operators who I know have had road closures because
7 they've harvested right on top of their operation. I
8 question how much profit these people made. Couldn't
9 they leave that wood there? Couldn't they take a good
10 part of it and still leave these people remote enough
11 to try to run a business?

12 They also push animals and bird habitat
13 to the limit, as I've already mentioned. Topographical
14 situations, prevailing winds, these little pieces of
15 land and strips they leave it all blows down. There is
16 little or no point in it. If you are going to leave
17 something, have a good look at it, see if it's going to
18 stand up there for a while, see how it's rooted, look
19 at the soil and see what the wind is going to do to
20 you. I realize it takes time and it takes effort, I'll
21 do it. If somebody asks me what's going on on my
22 trapline I'll gladly do it, I won't charge anybody.

23 The inability of the MNR to be in the
24 field, I brought this to the attention of our local
25 Ministry. They thought it had a little bit of common

1 sense added to it. We now have a CO up there right now
2 overlooking some of this stuff and I see this fellow
3 every now and again and he feels he's doing a bang up
4 job there. He's getting something going between
5 himself and the people on the chain saw, and I don't
6 think that's every been tried before. I hope that
7 continues. If it's just a temporary measure, it's not
8 going to work. Temporary things seldom do.

9 But anyway, if overharvest is done you
10 can expect all species declined, moose in particular.
11 The number of moose harvested in this province, it
12 would lead you to believe that things are all well.
13 They're not all well. They are in horrible shape. You
14 don't have to believe me, I don't know anything, but I
15 can tell you this, there's people shooting moose where
16 they could never get to five years ago. Where they
17 used to hunt moose they don't get them anymore because
18 they're not there. As the road corridors open, the
19 people flow in; as the people flow in, the moose
20 numbers go down. More corridors, more moose. This is
21 a false picture we're being painted here, it is going
22 to end in disaster.

23 I would like to leave overharvest and
24 talk about temporary measures. I mentioned one of them
25 in overharvest, was our CO in the field. I hope this

1 can be ongoing. I realize it is a problem with people
2 and dollars; everyone feels the pinch in all business.

3 Timber managers at this point in our
4 history in this province because of what you people are
5 doing are on top of everything, as I see it. That's
6 good, but I think it's going to be very short.

7 Future cutting plans bypassing previous
8 plans and ultimately leading into total clearcutting.
9 I spent ten years in Fort Frances. When I first went
10 there the cutting -- got up a huge deer herd from
11 Minnesota and there was deer everywhere. The cutting
12 continued, there was less places for the deer to live.
13 The cutting continued again, there was still less
14 placea for the deer and it went on and on and on until
15 ultimately there was no deer.

16 The Indians that lived up there at the
17 time had a cemetary. Before the Ministry could get in
18 and shut down the lumber operations they cut the whole
19 back end off it. The Ministry's inability to be on top
20 of loggers -- if you ever go to a logging operation
21 that is of any size, it is appalling at the rate.
22 These people are extremely efficient. They have to be
23 to turn a profit and I really have to commend these
24 people. They have got their business about as
25 efficient as you can get which creates a nightmare

1 problem for the Ministry. By the time you blink, a
2 road is in, by the time you blink again the stand that
3 was supposed to be left is no longer there.

4 Something that I really would like to
5 make note of as well, I have been involved with Blind
6 River as well which is our next district over. I am a
7 little concerned about some of the rules. They seem to
8 draw this imaginary line and they say: We are going to
9 cut this much over here and then we are going to have
10 to leave an area. These lines are just put on a map,
11 they don't exist for me out in the bush there unless I
12 am looking at the map, but I don't want this stuff to
13 run together. I'll be upset if it does.

14 I think under the environmental rules and
15 regulation they are not supposed to be of any size
16 other than what it says in the rules.

17 I would like to move to my last point and
18 I don't want to offend anyone here. I certainly
19 appreciate you letting me come here tonight, but it has
20 to do with the value of the Environmental Assessment
21 Board.

22 I spent time in northwestern Ontario, the
23 largest clearcuts in the world, unless I stand to be
24 corrected, are there, unless the Amazon has topped it,
25 but I doubt it. I know people in Chapleau, I know

1 what's gone on up there. I have many friends in White
2 River, a lot of them don't have traplines anymore or
3 tourist operations.

4 Blind River, I hope they are changing
5 their ways, they've done some horrible things there.
6 Sault Ste. Marie, I have great hopes for the Sault, but
7 I'm not so sure. But irregardless of that, the
8 Environmental Assessment Board, by the time all this
9 gets in motion, the black that we looked at on the map
10 at the beginning may be all cut. I'm not sure how long
11 it is going to take to get a handle on this. I'd like
12 somebody to tell me that, please, if you could.

13 And thank you very much.

14 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr.
15 Boissineau.

16 I hope that you and all the others in the
17 audience don't feel the least bit intimidated about
18 criticizing the Environmental Assessment Board. We are
19 here to hear everything. People have to say it and you
20 are perfectly free to tell us what you think of our
21 process or what we are doing as part of this entire
22 hearing.

23 I have a few questions for you. Did you
24 say you would leave us that map or did you say that was
25 an MNR map?

1 MR. BOISSINEAU: You can have that map.

2 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you very much.

3 MS. BLASTORAH: If it will be helpful to
4 Mr. Boissineau, Madam Chair, I am advised that we can
5 have that reproduced for him. The Ministry will --

6 MR. BOISSINEAU: You will do better with
7 the Ministry because that map is really probably not
8 complete nor is up to date.

9 MADAM CHAIR: All right. Let's enter it
10 as an exhibit.

11 MR. HUFF: Can we have Mr. Boissineau's
12 map put on too, please.

13 MR. CASSIDY: It is up to Mr. Boissineau
14 to decide which map he wants to enter as an exhibit.

15 MR. BOISSINEAU: You are more than
16 welcome -- like, there is no confidential information
17 on my map. I'm just suggesting that this is, I
18 believe, the proposed amount of cutting that's going on
19 in these eight townships. That may be readjusted and I
20 think in all fairness to the Ministry, they've really
21 helped me out, I would like to let them give the most
22 current map available. That's the only thing I'm
23 coming with.

24 MADAM CHAIR: All right, Mr. Boissineau,
25 we will do that. We will accept a map submitted by the

1 Ministry of Natural Resources under your direction and
2 in that we would expect to find marked the areas that
3 are proposed for harvest over the next five years?

4 MR. BOISSINEAU: Yes, some of this -- I
5 would like the Ministry also to give you what has been
6 harvested in the last two years as well. A lot of this
7 stuff is gone already.

8 MADAM CHAIR: All right. And this will
9 involve eight townships in the northern part of the
10 Sault Ste. Marie District?

11 MR. BOISSINEAU: Correct.

12 MADAM CHAIR: Does MNR hear this?

13 MS. BLASTORAH: Yes. Madam Chair, I
14 would like to get clearly what we may be obliged to do
15 here. The original offer was really to reproduce Mr.
16 Boissineau's map, but I am advised that if you could
17 repeat what it was you are seeking I think we can
18 probably comply with that and have the two marked
19 separately; one as an undertaking.

20 MADAM CHAIR: All right. Thank you, Ms.
21 Blastorah. I understand that Mr. Boissineau is saying
22 that he would appreciate if you would recreate the map
23 and ensure that he has accurately taken from MNR source
24 material exactly the areas that are proposed for
25 harvesting over the next five years and, in addition,

1 the areas that have been cut over the past two years.

2 MR. BOISSINEAU: Yes. This leads me to
3 the point of just how quickly this Board is working; is
4 it going to be in place soon enough. That's my point.

5 MADAM CHAIR: We understand that, Mr.
6 Boissineau. Thank you.

7 We won't give that an exhibit number now.

8 MS. BLASTORAH: I am not sure how long it
9 will take to have that done, Madam Chair. I believe
10 that it won't be a problem to do it. I will have to
11 get instructions as to when it may be available.

12 MADAM CHAIR: All right. Thank you.

13 MS. BLASTORAH: And obviously we will let
14 Mr. Boissineau know what the answer is to that. Mr.
15 Lasard I think will probably contact him.

16 MADAM CHAIR: Is that satisfactory, Mr.
17 Boissineau?

18 MR. BOISSINEAU: Excellent.

19 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you.

20 There was one point that you made that I
21 didn't understand. You were referring to conservation
22 officers and you were talking about some arrangement
23 that was being made with respect to a conservation
24 officer working with loggers or carrying out some type
25 of enforcement with loggers.

1 MR. BOISSINEAU: The Ministry would
2 explain that better than me, but I will give you my
3 version, if you like.

4 Timber people often go in and they are on
5 the site to see what the logging companies are doing,
6 but COs, I think the Ministry will agree, have a little
7 different outlook on situations, particularly wildlife
8 habitat. For this reason, unless I am in error, you
9 might get Mr. Lasard to say something in this regard,
10 but I believe that was his reason.

11 I raised this concern with him and I
12 think probably a good part of the reason that the CO
13 was assigned was because of my concern and I do believe
14 it does merit putting -- I realize there's a manpower
15 problem, but COs have a great deal of things on the go.
16 I'm sure everyone can appreciate that, if they know
17 anything about the Ministry. These men have a wide
18 range of problems.

19 MADAM CHAIR: So what you are telling us
20 is that you had a serious concern about wildlife
21 habitat and you took that concern to the Ministry of
22 Natural Resources and they assigned a conservation
23 officer to watch a certain logging operation?

24 MR. BOISSINEAU: Basically I think that
25 was the idea, yes. A little more input from the field,

1 so to speak.

2 MADAM CHAIR: Does anyone have a question
3 for Mr. Boissineau?

4 Yes, sir.

5 MR. ALCOCK: Yes. I would like to ask
6 Mr. Boissineau on that map that he showed with the
7 black area that he did, there is different cut
8 prescriptions and a high percentage of those are
9 selectively cut and if I'm not incorrect on that they
10 are not all clearcuts.

11 MR. BOISSINEAU: I don't mean to imply --
12 my problem is not only clearcutting, it is access and
13 where this cutting takes place in conjunction with
14 wildlife, et cetera. I don't mean to suggest this is
15 all clearcut, I would not suggest that at all.

16 MR. ALCOCK: All right. The other
17 question is, as the roads flow in the wolves build up
18 in the northern part, my question to him is: Why is it
19 that Ontario trappers are not keeping those in control?

20 MR. BOISSINEAU: Could I ask you a
21 question, sir. Do you hunt?

22 MR. ALCOCK: Please do.

23 MR. BOISSINEAU: How many wolves have you
24 shot?

25 MR. ALCOCK: I'm not a trapper and I

1 leave that to them.

2 MR. BOISSINEAU: Could you just answer
3 that particular question.

4 MR. ALCOCK: I haven't shot any.

5 MR. BOISSINEAU: Would you shoot one?

6 MR. ALCOCK: No, I wouldn't.

7 MR. BOISSINEAU: Any reason?

8 MR. ALCOCK: I do not believe in shooting
9 something I can't use.

10 MR. BOISSINEAU: Well, depending on how
11 you want to use something, most people don't get an
12 opportunity to see wolves.

13 I've called wolves twice already this
14 year, they come right into my camp area. I've called
15 wolves many, many times in my life. I've seen hundreds
16 of wolves, I know where the wolves den, I've harvested
17 wolves and I've got to tell you, a wolf is my favorite
18 animal. I do not kill every one I see. I happen to
19 like the animal.

20 But I can tell you this much, one thing
21 that wolves do when a road is put in place, a wolf that
22 is localized because of very, very deep snow, their
23 physical being is they can only go through much --
24 through so much soft snow. When a road is put in and a
25 ski-doo goes up that road 40 miles, a wolf on a trot

1 can cover that in one evening. That very much expands
2 his range.

3 Our wolves are doing quite well with all
4 these access roads; they can get to pretty near every
5 moose herd in the area. That's another problem with
6 roads. There is all kind of problems I haven't touched
7 on, I just touched on a few.

8 MR. ALCOCK: Thank you.

9 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you.

10 Thank you very much, Mr. Boissineau.

11 MR. BOISSINEAU: Thank you.

12 MS. BLASTORAH: Madam Chair, I was just
13 wondering if perhaps we should have the gentleman who
14 asked his questions give his name for the record. The
15 previous gentleman was already identified in the
16 introductions.

17 MADAM CHAIR: Excuse me, sir, would you
18 care to identify yourself.

19 MR. ALCOCK: Yes, I am Gene Alcock
20 affiliated with St. Mary's Paper.

21 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. And perhaps we
22 would also have the gentleman who is seated by Mr. Huff
23 introduce himself.

24 MR. O'CONNOR: Mike O'Connor.

25 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you.

1 Is Mr. Enn Poldmaa here?

2 Yes, Mr. Poldmaa.

3 Excuse me, Mr. Poldmaa, could you
4 approach the Board. Thank you.

5 ENN POLDMAA, Sworn

6 MADAM CHAIR: Do you have anything in
7 writing you would like to submit to the Board?

8 MR. POLDMAA: No.

9 MADAM CHAIR: All right, fine. Thank
10 you.

11 MR. POLDMAA: My wife and I represent
12 Bellevue Valley Bed and Breakfast. We have been
13 operating in the tourism business for five years
14 primarily as a cross-country and telemark back country
15 skiing site.

16 We have a land use --

17 MADAM CHAIR: Excuse me, Mr. Poldmaa.

18 MR. POLDMAA: Yes.

19 MADAM CHAIR: Was the name of your place
20 Bellevue?

21 MR. POLDMAA: That's right.

22 MADAM CHAIR: Bellevue. Thank you.

23 MR. POLDMAA: We have a land use permit
24 on Crown land for trails and ski areas. Most of our
25 clients are wilderness oriented adventure tourists.

1 Our area of Sault North is and will be a
2 heavy tourist use area with existing alpine skiing in
3 Searchmont and planned for King Mountain and world
4 class cross-country ski systems as Stokely Creek Lodge
5 and Kinsmen Hiawatha in Sault Ste. Marie. Our location
6 is in the middle of this triangle of winter tourism.
7 Also in the area are similar establishments, the Sky
8 Bear Lodge and Steer Mountain Enterprises and many
9 motel and highway campground establishments.

10 We have plans to expand our business in
11 conjunction with these other operations and provide a
12 wide range of tourist activities.

13 The Sault North area offers alpine, cross
14 country, telemark skiing, wildlife, bird watching,
15 canoeing, mountain biking, hiking, botanical
16 excursions. Most of these activities take place in
17 whole or in part on Crown land through arrangements
18 with MNR land use permits.

19 The area is very rugged with elevations
20 of 1,200 feet common and forested with a mature
21 hardwood forest which is naturally regenerating. The
22 biodiversity of the area is incredible, being home to
23 species of sandhill cranes, osprey, hawks, songbirds
24 winterbirds, moose, deer, bear, wolves, to name a few.
25 As you can see, there is a lot here to offer the

1 environmentally conscious, be they local inhabitants or
2 visitors to our area.

3 So when the MNR announced their five-year
4 plan in the newspaper we learned we were in an area of
5 the plan. Basically this is a story of our interaction
6 with the MNR.

7 We attended the hearings for the
8 five-year plan to learn that the management -- that a
9 management cut was proposed on our ski trail areas for
10 stand improvements through regeneration of a mature
11 forest. Now, our trails were also to be skidder trails
12 to remove firewood and the ski areas would be littered
13 with tops and debris and regenerated with a dense
14 growth of whips.

15 We had seen this process occur at other
16 lodges in our area with disastrous environmental
17 results, as detailed by Michael O'Connor in a report
18 submitted to these hearings. A more conflicting
19 situation we could not imagine in our area.

20 As we delved deeper into the information
21 available; that is, the site maps and plan cuts for
22 firewood, we realized that decisions were being based
23 on aerial photographs and out of date maps. Our house
24 and many others were not even on these maps and there
25 had not even been a site inspection.

1 In spite of the steep elevations, no one
2 seemed to be aware of the accessibility problems and
3 the associated problem of erosion and watershed
4 disruptions. As no private landowners bordering this
5 Crown land had been notified of these plans, we quickly
6 organized a meeting of concerned landowners and
7 businesses and decided to meet with the forestry
8 personnel at MNR.

9 The MNR replied with an information
10 session where forest management practices were detailed
11 and there was a follow-up site inspection and a timber
12 cruise evaluation at our request. All of which seemed
13 to indicate ttat, yes, we did have some legitimate
14 concerns but nothing that would preclude logging.

15 Although designated as a multiple-use
16 area, the area would first be logged and later used and
17 that to us was a direct conflict with our winter
18 business and future plans.

19 We discussed alternative logging methods
20 and alternative forest management procedures with
21 forestry people, but the conclusions were the same.
22 Any economic benefits were always judged to be
23 preferable to aesthetic values, even though these same
24 aesthetic values are profitable to our business.

25 Assuring us that logging and multiple use

1 was compatible, we were invited to view several managed
2 sites. The first was an experiment in alternate
3 logging techniques. It was horse logging. The site
4 was very clean and definitely suitable for multiple
5 purposes, but judged not economically feasible on
6 larger scales.

7 The other sites were more typical using
8 mechanized means of harvesting and definitely lacked
9 any aesthetic natural appeal. When it became clear
10 that we had viable concerns, the MNR was very
11 cooperative in explaining and detailing operations,
12 probably because of the current EA hearings.

13 Much of our consternation arose from the
14 fact that we had so much information on the sites that
15 the MNR was just not aware of. We had to raise the
16 subject of multiple use, wildlife habitat loss, erosion
17 and watershed disruptions and accessibility problems.

18 We would like to suggest that in our case
19 the MNR learned certain conflicts with their five-year
20 plan and also specific problems of environmental
21 concern that were not obvious from their initial
22 survey. We feel that there should be a local EA of the
23 areas in question and have MNR employee staff to
24 fulfill this.

25 The different concerns of wildlife,

1 environment, timber management, multiple uses are not
2 cohesively handled within MNR and we see the need for
3 an overall coordination of these different aspects. We
4 also believe that logging procedures close to heavily
5 populated areas that are designated as multiple use
6 should be curtailed if proven disruptive and
7 redesignated as tourism only.

8 We thank you for your time and a chance
9 to express our concerns and recommendations.

10 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr.
11 Poldmaa. And has the situation been resolved with
12 respect to this timber management plan?

13 MR. POLDMAA: No, we have not heard a
14 final result yet.

15 MR. MARTEL: What kind of things -- you
16 mentioned there were things that MNR wasn't aware of, I
17 think you indicated that. Could you give me a couple
18 of examples?

19 MR. POLDMAA: Well, their maps were out
20 of date, there was -- they didn't realize there was
21 actually people living in this area. They weren't
22 aware of the multiple uses of the area and specifically
23 the site itself hadn't really been studied, it had just
24 been picked off an aerial photograph.

25 No, there was also -- when we did meet

1 with the forestry people we were told that the area had
2 never been forested when obviously it had been,
3 somebody had cut it previously and it wasn't in their
4 records.

5 MR. MARTEL: They didn't show you any of
6 the background material they might have gathered as
7 they prepared to initiate this plan?

8 MR. POLDMAA: They showed us the aerial
9 photographs.

10 MR. MARTEL: And that was it.

11 MR. POLDMAA: That was it. There was no
12 on-site tour until we requested a timber cruise
13 evaluation.

14 MADAM CHAIR: Was your final position
15 with the Ministry of Natural Resources that you wished
16 to have no logging in your area of concern?

17 MR. POLDMAA: Not really. I could -- my
18 conflict with it is that they have an economical
19 prerogative, even to the management or the
20 establishment of a forest for the future and that they
21 want to cut everything for firewood and make a buck
22 doing that in their management plan.

23 MR. MARTEL: That doesn't seem to be much
24 of a management plan, if there is no material that has
25 been prepared that one looks at in the overall to try

1 and get to an appropriate multi-use concept, there has
2 got to be more than just a map available for people to
3 work from. And economic considerations aside for the
4 moment, you can't plan in a vacuum.

5 MR. POLDMAA: I agree.

6 MR. MARTEL: Well, maybe we'll hear more
7 from MNR on this one as to what type of background.
8 I'm really worried that -- I guess I'd like to see it
9 for my own personal satisfaction that that in fact
10 isn't occurring in the province, and so there's a big
11 question mark as to what really is happening in there.

12 MS. BLASTORAH: Mr. Martel, perhaps I
13 could -- oh, sorry, Mrs. Koven.

14 MADAM CHAIR: Mr. Martel is asking for an
15 undertaking I think from the Ministry of Natural
16 Resources.

17 MS. BLASTORAH: Well, Mrs. Koven, perhaps
18 I could deal with it more directly and Mr. Poldmaa
19 could have the benefit of the clarification as well as
20 the Board.

21 I think perhaps a few questions might
22 help clarify the situation and if Mr. Martel still
23 feels he wants additional information, perhaps we could
24 deal with it in reply evidence later but obviously I'm
25 sure the Board is anxious that these matters be dealt

1 with here in front of the people that are concerned, if
2 possible.

3 MADAM CHAIR: All right. Go ahead, Ms.
4 Blastorah, briefly.

5 MS. BLASTORAH: Okay. Perhaps I could
6 just ask you one or two brief questions then, Mr.
7 Poldmaa.

8 First of all, you indicated that you have
9 a land use permit for the area in question. Can you
10 indicate when you obtained that land use permit?

11 MR. POLDMAA: I obtained that last
12 winter.

13 MS. BLASTORAH: Could you give me a date?
14 Was it in the new year?

15 MR. POLDMAA: No, it was before the new
16 year.

17 MS. BLASTORAH: And you indicated that
18 you first received notice of this particular proposed
19 operation through a newspaper ad. Am I correct that
20 that ad was in fact in relation to the draft timber
21 management plan and was not a notice of an open house
22 for plan preparation?

23 Do you know the distinction?

24 MR. POLDMAA: No, I don't, I'm sorry.

25 MS. BLASTORAH: Maybe then you could

1 confirm --

2 MR. POLDMAA: I believe it was in the
3 third stages of the public input on the timber
4 management plan.

5 MS. BLASTORAH: And so that what you were
6 actually reviewing was a draft plan; am I correct in
7 that?

8 MR. POLDMAA: Yes, it is a draft plan,
9 yes.

10 MS. BLASTORAH: Okay. And you had not
11 previously been on the district mailing list; am I
12 correct?

13 MR. POLDMAA: That's true.

14 MS. BLASTORAH: And you didn't have a
15 land use permit for the area in question prior to that
16 time; am I correct?

17 MR. POLDMAA: You're right.

18 MS. MacINTRYE: (inaudible)

19 MS. BLASTORAH: And you have also
20 indicated that you did have a number of meetings with
21 district staff and in fact that you met with district
22 staff at the site and reviewed the area in question?

23 MR. POLDMAA: That is true.

24 MS. BLASTORAH: In addition to those
25 various meetings, am I correct that your concerns were

1 brought to the attention of the timber management
2 planning committee that was mentioned by one of the
3 previous witnesses?

4 MR. POLDMAA: Yeah, those concerns were
5 brought to the attention of that committee.

6 MS. BLASTORAH: And that no decision has
7 yet been made in relation to this particular area?

8 MR. POLDMAA: As far as I understand it.

9 MS. BLASTORAH: And am I also correct
10 that the information put before the timber management
11 planning committee was in part in relation to
12 difficulties in obtaining access to this area because
13 it is completely surrounded by privately held land not
14 Crown land?

15 MR. POLDMAA: That is part of the
16 problem, yeah.

17 MS. BLASTORAH: And I also have a letter
18 here that I think may assist the Board in having at
19 least some background to this. It's a letter addressed
20 to you from Mr. Ron Lissard District Manager of Sault
21 Ste. Marie District dated November 27th, 1989.

22 Perhaps I could just ask you to confirm
23 that you received this letter and I could have the
24 Board mark it as an exhibit. (handed)

25 MADAM CHAIR: Excuse me. Is Robin

1 MacIntyre present?

2 MR. POLDMAA: Yes.

3 MADAM CHAIR: Is there something you
4 would like to add to Mr. Poldmaa's presentation?

5 MS. MacINTRYE: Yes, I would. I would
6 just like to make a few clarifications as it's kind of
7 both of us were involved on this.

8 And in response basically to the
9 questions that just arose with the MNR, the whole
10 aspect and the whole reason that we would like to
11 present this small report, perhaps it's been quickly
12 done, and we don't mean any insult at all to the MNR,
13 all of the relationships with the MNR to their ability
14 have been as possibly good as we could expect, you
15 know, there has been a lot of response, we have had a
16 lot of talking and made good friends with the MNR on
17 this point.

18 The problems that we were trying to draw
19 to the attention are at the end of Enn's address is the
20 facts that there aren't enough -- there isn't enough
21 response to specific problems when it comes to liaisons
22 between separate areas as in tourism, the aspect of the
23 biological problems that are involved in an area, the
24 environmental concerns.

25 The problems with the access in our area

1 when the timber cruisers came up to see it they came
2 back down and even though there was eight feet of snow
3 at the time they said: Boy, I don't know how they
4 could expect to get up this rock hill, you know, and
5 that's how we felt. That's why we were so surprised of
6 having to go through the whole thing.

7 Now, whether this turns out to be an area
8 that is forested on a managed basis or whether it turns
9 out to be a tourism area, the whole problem with this
10 process has been the process itself that we've had to
11 go through this. Like, I believe strongly that if the
12 area in question had been assessed at a stronger --
13 with a better attitude in the beginning, then perhaps
14 it could have been clarified more quickly.

15 There's a lot of people that are really
16 upset about the area that's in question. I'm sure, as
17 everyone is, about an area that's in their backyard or,
18 you know, the old "not here" syndrome and the problem
19 with that is that it goes on for such a long time, it
20 has been a year now and there's a lot of lives that are
21 on hold when it comes to planning for 20 years or more
22 into the future.

23 It's quite obvious in our small valley
24 that any kind of foresting would disrupt the ecosystem
25 strongly. The problems with erosion that are already

1 there from previous logging operations which the MNR
2 hasn't accepted happened but which did happen, and the
3 problems with the watershed that haven't been fully
4 understood as of yet.

5 And I think that is all I have to say.

6 Thank you.

7 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, Ms. MacIntyre.

8 Did you want to make that -- do you
9 object to that letter being made an exhibit, Mr.
10 Poldmaa?

11 MR. POLDMAA: No, I don't. We received
12 that letter, Madam Chair.

13 MS. BLASTORAH: Madam Chair, I again only
14 sought to put in this information for the clarification
15 of the Board. The letter if it is marked will be made
16 available to everyone and it simply outlines the
17 background basically to clarify the background to the
18 comments made by Mr. Poldmaa and to give a little more
19 detail about the various meetings and so on that he
20 indicated quite fairly were held.

21 MADAM CHAIR: We will make that an
22 exhibit. It will be Exhibit No. 1296.

23 ---EXHIBIT NO. 1296: Letter dated November 27, 1989
24 from Ron Lissard, District
25 Manager, Sault Ste. Marie
 District to Enn Poldmaa.

1 MS. BLASTORAH: Madam Chair, if I might,
2 I will give this to Ms. Devaul on the next break and
3 have her make some copies of it since it is out of the
4 background documentation attached to the plan I
5 believe, so I would prefer not to give up the original
6 if possible.

7 MADAM CHAIR: All right.

8 MS. BLASTORAH: Thank you.

9 MADAM CHAIR: Fine, Ms. Blastorah.

10 Does anyone have a question for Mr.
11 Poldmaa?

12 Yes, sir. Mr. Meakin?

13 MR. MEAKIN: Yes, just a couple
14 questions, sir. Your area there was obviously logged
15 before because you had mentioned this, therefore, there
16 shouldn't be any problem with being logged a second
17 time and would not those old logging roads be of asset
18 to you for your skiing trails, are you presently using
19 those old logging roads as ski trails?

20 MR. POLDMAA: As far as the logging not
21 being disruptive because it had happened before, I have
22 done considerable work in repairing the erosion that
23 has been created because of skidders going up and down
24 the hill and, yes, I do use some of these roads as
25 access to the area.

1 MR. MEAKIN: So you use some of these
2 logging roads for ski trails, eh?

3 MR. POLDMAA: As access to the area, yes.

4 MR. MEAKIN: Okay. And the other thing I
5 was concerned about is that you mention in the
6 stovewood cutting, the area that MNR may have shown you
7 or showed you, was that not an area that the MNR
8 actually had trees marked and the stovewood operator
9 took out only the marked trees and this was a
10 silvicultural cleaning operation to enhance the
11 resident stands, they didn't clearcut; did they?

12 MR. POLDMAA: The trees have not been
13 marked and that is the plan that the trees would be
14 marked for silvicultural improvement.

15 MR. MEAKIN: So really we weren't talking
16 clearcut we were talking a silvicultural process that
17 would enhance the stands for everyone, eh?

18 MR. POLDMAA: I can see what you're
19 saying, that the silvicultural process would enhance
20 the stand on an economic basis because it would have
21 better trees, but in the process this takes many years,
22 probably 30 to 50 years before there was anything that
23 would be called a sawlog in that area.

24 MR. MEAKIN: Okay, thank you. Just a
25 couple of point. Thanks.

1 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Meakin. Do
2 you wish to add anything, Mr. Poldmaa?

3 MR. POLDMAA: No, I don't think so.

4 MADAM CHAIR: All right. Thank you very
5 much.

6 MR. MEAKIN: Thank you.

7 MADAM CHAIR: Mr. Huff?

8 MR. HUFF: What additional pieces of
9 information do you think the Ministry of Natural
10 Resources should have collected in this area to help
11 you and the Ministry come up with a plan?

12 MR. POLDMAA: I think a site inspection
13 primarily would have changed a whole lot of ideas as to
14 whether this really would have been designated as a
15 site; the things that we did request, a timber cruise
16 evaluation.

17 MR. HUFF: You mean species lists and
18 that don't exist for the area now?

19 MR. POLDMAA: I'm sure species lists do
20 exist.

21 MR. CASSIDY: Madam Chair, if I could ask
22 just a couple of questions.

23 MADAM CHAIR: Mr. Cassidy?

24 MR. CASSIDY: Mr. Poldmaa, do you agree
25 that you have some or had in this case some information

1 that was useful in the planning process to give to the
2 Ministry?

3 MR. POLDMAA: Yes, I do.

4 MR. CASSIDY: And do you agree that your
5 involvement in an ongoing basis in the timber
6 management planning process would be a good idea?

7 MR. POLDMAA: Yes, I do.

8 MR. CASSIDY: And not just a one-shot
9 affair, I'm talking about an ongoing participation, do
10 you think that would be useful to the process?

11 MR. POLDMAA: Yes, and we have continued
12 to keep in touch with the MNR.

13 MR. CASSIDY: Thank you.

14 MADAM CHAIR: All right. Thank you very
15 much, Mr. Poldmaa, Ms. MacIntyre.

16 MR. POLDMAA: Thank you.

17 FROM THE AUDIENCE: Could I ask just one
18 question of Mr. Poldmaa. Sorry.

19 What effect do you think cutting would
20 have on the area that, say, if they went in and cut the
21 firewood stand improvement, could you still ski in the
22 area as far as telemark skiing. Is that what you use
23 it for?

24 MR. POLDMAA: That's primarily the area
25 that we use for telemark skiing. We use the roads as

1 an access to the top of the mountain. Any cutting at
2 the top would leave tops and debris and skidder damage
3 and that would preclude any type of skiing that we do
4 enjoy there now because the telemark skiing, the back
5 country skiing is not restricted to trails it is
6 through an open forest and the way the forest is now
7 with no underbrush or very little underbrush it's
8 perfect for our uses.

9 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Poldmaa.

10 MR. POLDMAA: Thank you.

11 MADAM CHAIR: Is Mr. Steven Boniferro of
12 the United Steelworkers present this evening?

13 MR. BONIFERRO: Yes.

14 MADAM CHAIR: Well, Mr. Boniferro, would
15 you approach the Board please and we will swear in your
16 evidence.

17 STEVEN BONIFERRO, Sworn

18 MADAM CHAIR: Please proceed.

19 MR. BONIFERRO: All right. Thank you for
20 the opportunity to be here tonight at rather short
21 notice.

22 The United Steelworkers of America became
23 the bargaining agent for approximately 100 employees at
24 Midway Lumber in 1988. Since that time, while in no
25 way claiming to be experts, we have come to learn quite

1 well the fragility of a specialty sawmiller such as
2 Midway.

3 This family-owned operation is now in its
4 third generation and is a major employer not only in
5 Thessalon where it's located but also for a number of
6 small surrounding communities. These communities rely
7 heavily on Midway for their survival. I can assure you
8 that any decision that would result in a major
9 downsizing or closure of this mill will have a
10 devastating effect on all of them.

11 Our Union is presently holding its
12 constitutional convention in Toronto, Ontario and later
13 this week the delegates will debate an environmental
14 policy document that says workers should not be forced
15 to make a choice between having jobs or a clean
16 environment, we believe they can have both.

17 I believe that the same philosophy should
18 apply to the development of operating plans; you must
19 develop effective forest management programs while at
20 the same time ensuring the viabilities of companies
21 like Midway. I realize it's a tough balancing act but
22 it's one that must be accomplished. Setting
23 requirements that are impossible to meet would in my
24 view be nothing less than irresponsible.

25 I urge you on behalf of all of the

1 employees to consider the future of the employees,
2 their families, the company and the communities in the
3 implementation of any five-year plan.

4 Thank you.

5 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Boniferro.

6 I am not quite sure I understood what you
7 were talking about with respect to the debate that's
8 going on in Toronto now in your Union, the Steelworkers
9 convention, and what are the issues as they are of
10 interest to this Board?

11 MR. BONIFERRO: we are presently debating
12 an environmental policy paper which is a broad
13 statement on the environment on the whole and in recent
14 years many of our members have been faced with a
15 decision as to whether or not they have a job or
16 whether or not there's a clean environment.

17 We are presently involved in a strike in
18 Elmira, Ontario with the Uni-Royal Chemical Plant over
19 the issue of the environment. We believe that we can
20 at the same time maintain and improve our environmental
21 surroundings and also maintain employment. We don't
22 think that the two of them are at opposite ends, we
23 think that the two can be done together.

24 MR. MARTEL: How much involvement has
25 your membership got, or how much input do they have in

1 a management plan, or have they been asked for any
2 input in a management plan?

3 MR. BONIFERRO: Our Union was basically
4 left in the dark in this instance. We have had access
5 through our member of parliament to information that
6 had passed through various hands that would affect the
7 employment levels at the plant. We have been given
8 information from the employer as to the effect of the
9 proposed plan on his operation.

10 MR. MARTEL: Is it your belief though
11 that if you're going to be involved, or should you be
12 directly involved as the employees, because to date we
13 have heard very little from any involvement of the
14 unions in any plans of any company or in any way, shape
15 or form.

16 It doesn't surprise me, but how strong
17 are the unions in demanding that they have a role in
18 the planning that goes on?

19 MR. BONIFERRO: Well, it's difficult for
20 me to answer on behalf of a number of unions.

21 MR. MARTEL: I appreciate that.

22 MR. BONIFERRO: I certainly can answer on
23 behalf of my Union, I am an employee of the Union, and
24 our Union believes that we have the right to play a
25 major role in the decision-making process where it

1 involves the environment and it involves our jobs.

2 Indeed we look at -- in other areas of
3 the environment, whistle-blower protection as being
4 something that should be every worker's right. We
5 believe that our workers have a right to work but they
6 also have a right to ensure that nothing is done to
7 harm the environment.

8 The real concern is that there needs to
9 be a balance and there seems to be a lack on the part
10 of many to try to achieve that balance as opposed to
11 determining an issue on one side or the other.

12 MADAM CHAIR: Does anyone else wish to
13 question Mr. Boniferro?

14 Ms. Blastorah?

15 MS. BLASTORAH: Just one question or
16 perhaps two following up from Mr. Martel's question.

17 I was just wondering, Mr. Boniferro, if
18 your Union has taken any steps to get on the district
19 mailing list or to become directly involved in timber
20 management planning. I think you mentioned the
21 recently developed plan. Has the Union taken such
22 steps?

23 MR. BONIFERRO: I understand that our
24 Union is already on the mailing list.

25 MS. BLASTORAH: And do you know whether

1 they receive notice and participated in the timber
2 management planning process.

3 MR. BONIFERRO: I don't know if they
4 have.

5 MS. BLASTORAH: And do you know whether
6 any of the Union's individual members perhaps might
7 also be on the mailing list or might have become
8 involved directly at a personal level?

9 MR. BONIFERRO: That's difficult. We
10 have 170,000 members, so I would imagine that's
11 probably true.

12 MS. BLASTORAH: Thank you.

13 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr.
14 Boniferro.

15 MR. BONIFERRO: Thank you.

16 MADAM CHAIR: Does anyone else in the
17 audience this evening have anything they wish to say to
18 the Board?

19 (no response)

20 All right. Then we will adjourn for this
21 evening. We have a list of people who have asked to
22 make presentations to the Board tomorrow. We will
23 again hold two sessions, one at two o'clock and one at
24 seven o'clock.

25 All right. Thank you very much for

1 coming this evening. Good night.

2 ---Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 8:40 p.m., to
3 be reconvened on Thursday, August 30th, 1990,
4 commencing at 2:00 p.m.

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